2BA with Irish Studies (2BIS)

IS211 Performing Ireland 2

Tunes and Texts: Constructing identity in Irish music and dance

Semester 1, 2014/15

Dr Méabh Ni Fhuartháin
Centre for Irish Studies
meabh.nifhuarthain@nuigalway.ie
Music and dance in Ireland are frequently used as architectural frameworks of identity building. Drawing on criticism, cultural history and performance studies, this course will focus on key performers, performances and criticism of Irish music and dance performance from the late nineteenth century to the new millennium as a means of examining constructions of Irish identity.

Times and location: Class meets on Wednesdays, 3-4pm and 5-6pm beginning 10 September for twelve weeks. Class takes place in the Seminar Room at the Centre for Irish Studies, Distillery Rd.

Requirements:
- Attendance at class is required
- Weekly readings for discussion. Reading pack available from Print That, at the beginning of semester.
- Class research assignment (10%)
  Each week, one student will research and present primary contextual evidence for the topic under discussion.
- In-class reading response (10%)
  Each week two students will research and present a response to selected class readings.
- 250 word written reading response (10%)
- 2,000 word essay due 12pm, Monday, 1 December 2014 (70%)
(Please note, assignment requirements may change)

Week 1  Music, Dance, Ireland and Identity

Readings

Week 2  Gendered musicking

Listening
- http://www.joeheaney.org/default.asp?contentID=1

Readings
- Helen Lawlor, Irish Harping 1900-2010, Four Courts Press, 142-163.
Lillis Ó Laoire and Sean Williams, ‘Irish masculinities, the Irish tenor and the sean-nós singer’, and ‘Fighting words, fighting music, the performative male’ in Bright Star of the West: Joe Heaney, Irish Song Man, Oxford University Press (2011), 139-176.

**Week 3**

**Performing and documenting the West: The Willie Clancy Summer School**

*Reading*


**Web sources**

[http://www.feaklefestival.ie/aboutus.html](http://www.feaklefestival.ie/aboutus.html)
[http://www.oxegen.ie/](http://www.oxegen.ie/)

**Week 4**

‘Lisdoonvarna’: Festivalisation, culture and Ireland

*Visual*

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRYW55rFC24](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRYW55rFC24)

*Readings*


**Web sources**

[http://www.feaklefestival.ie/aboutus.html](http://www.feaklefestival.ie/aboutus.html)
[http://www.oxegen.ie/](http://www.oxegen.ie/)

**Week 5**

‘Kathleen Mavourneen’: Inventing the popular in Irish music

*Listening*

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUEAhhMtd8k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUEAhhMtd8k)

*Readings*

John Storey, ‘Popular culture as folk culture’ and ‘Popular culture as mass culture’ in Inventing Popular Culture, Blackwell Publishing (2003), 1-30.


*Additional*


**Week 6**

‘The Hucklebuck’: Jiving to the Showbands

*Film*

The One-Nighters

*Listening*

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cBMwzMllol&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cBMwzMllol&feature=related)
**Readings**


Rebecca Miller, “‘We were so different’: Negotiating gender on the showband stage”, in Méabh Ní Fhuartháin and David Doyle (eds), *Ordinary Irish Life: Music, Sport and Culture*, IAP (2013), 21-46.

**Week 7**

‘*Beautiful Day*: U2 and global Ireland’

**Listening**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V8nu6e8eFY

**Readings**


**Week 8**

‘*The sash my father wore*: Music and marching in Northern Ireland’

**Audio-visual**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPd3k_kl2T4

**Readings**


**Week 9**

‘*What’s another year?*: Pop music, the Eurovision and the nation-state’

**Audio-visual**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJYy4sQaR_s&feature=fvst

**Readings**


**Week 10**

**The Commitments**

**Film**

*The Commitments*

**Readings**


**Additional Readings**


**Week 11**

‘Seven Drunken Nights’: Folk revival and counter culture

**Listening**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWIHoSf4nw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWIHoSf4nw)

**Readings**


**Week 12**

Readings and topics to be confirmed

*Please note readings may change during the semester.*