

Media and Culture in Ireland

June 22 - July 18, 2008

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin on Sunday evening, June 22, 2008 with an informal orientation in Dublin, and classes will end on Friday, July 18, 2008. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Dublin on **Sunday, June 22, 2008.**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: This is the 17th offering in an ongoing institutional relationship between the Northern Illinois University Departments of Communication, English and History and Dublin City University (DCU). The program is coordinated by the NIU Study Abroad Office (SAO). The program is in response to a growing interest among Americans in the Irish media scene which has produced such popular films as *My Left Foot*, *The Field*, *Michael Collins*, *The Crying Game*, *In the Name of the Father*, and *The Butcher Boy*, along with general interest in Irish culture as evidenced through Irish Studies Programs which are currently offered by many American colleges and universities.

Past programs have featured guest lectures from Professor Luke Gibbons, co-author of *Cinema and Ireland* (1989), author of *Transformations in Irish Culture* (1996), *Reinventing Ireland: Culture, Society and the Global Economy* (co-editor, 2002) and *The Quiet Man* (2002), as well as Professor Martin McLoone, author of *Inside Film: The Emergence of a Contemporary Cinema* (2001). Other lecturers may include notable Irish film and television directors who will present their media productions. Major Irish authors may also present readings from their work. Students in previous years have visited such local cultural and historical sites as the Abbey Theater, Glendalough Monastic site, Kilmainham Gaol, Trinity University's 'Long Room,' and attended the Galway Film Festival.



Kilmainham Gaol-Dublin

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: Students will become sophisticated in issues of international culture via an immersion in Irish politics, history, literature, and media. Ireland's role in the European economic community has attracted wide interest from those interested in the mechanics of social change. Ireland's literature has long been preeminent in Europe and America. The Irish film industry stands as a model for understanding media's role in those developments, and students will be introduced to leading scholars and practitioners in these areas.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: **Jeffrey Chown**, Professor of Communication at Northern Illinois University, and former Fulbright Scholar-Lecturer at Dublin City University, will serve as co-director of the program. Professor Chown is the author of *Hollywood Auteur: Frances Coppola*, and has directed two award winning documentary films. Professor Chown is a recipient of the Presidential Teaching Award at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and was a Studs Terkel Humanitarian Service Award winner.



Jeffrey Chown, NIU



Kathleen Renk, NIU
contemporary Irish novelist John Banville. She teaches British modernist, postcolonial, and women's literatures.

Kathleen Williams Renk is an Associate Professor of English at Northern Illinois University, where she is also a Women's Studies Associate. The author of *Caribbean Shadows and Victorian Ghosts: Women's Writing and Decolonization* (Univ. Press of Virginia, 1999) and numerous critical essays on the work of various British and postcolonial writers, including A.S. Byatt, Jean Rhys, Wilson Harris, Peter Carey, Pauline Melville, and Dionne Brand, she is currently working on a second book project *The Alchemical Imagination: Magic, Science, and Empire in Post-Imperial Literature*, which includes analyses of the work of

Sean Farrell is an Associate Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. A former Research Associate at Queen's University, Belfast, his first book, *Rituals and Riots: Sectarian Violence and Political Culture in Ulster, 1784-1886*, won the American Conference for Irish Studies' Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book. He has an edited collection of essays (co-edited with Danine Farquharson) entitled *Shadow of the Gunmen: Violence and Culture in Modern Ireland* coming out with Cork University Press next year and is currently working on a book project on Belfast and the Caribbean in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



Sean Farrell, NIU

IRELAND: The site of the program: Ireland, an island in the British Isles, the westernmost and second largest of the group in the North Atlantic Ocean, is separated from Great Britain by Saint George's Channel on the southeast, the Irish Sea on the east, and the North Channel on the northeast. Politically, the island is divided into Northern Ireland, a constituent part of the United Kingdom (U.K.), and the Republic of Ireland, formerly Eire. The island is divided into four historical provinces—Connaught (Connacht), Leinster, Munster, and Ulster—and administrative units called counties.

Ireland is famous for its contributions to world literature. Two great mythological cycles in Gaelic—the Ulster (Red Branch) and the Fenian (Ossianic)—tell the stories of such legendary heroes as Cú Chulainn (Cuchulain), Madb (Maeve), Finn mac Cumhail (Finn MacCool), and Deirdre. After a long and bitter colonization by England, Ireland gave the world some of the greatest writers in the English language, including Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, and George

Bernard Shaw. Associated with the struggle for independence in this century is the Irish literary revival, which produced the works of William Butler Yeats and Sean O'Casey. James Joyce was a formative influence on the modernist movement in 20th-century European literature. Interest in the theater is strong in Ireland. The famed Abbey Theatre and the Gate Theatre, both in Dublin, receive government grants. The Arts Council, a body appointed by the prime minister, gives grants to arts organizations and publishers; the Gael-Linn promotes the Irish language and culture. Participants attend a number of plays as part of the course each summer.

Dublin is a city in the process of rapid change, growing multiculturalism, and greater affluence. It contains several notable suburbs, including Rathmines and Rathgar, where the homes of many wealthy businesspeople of Dublin are located, and Glasnevin, where Joseph Addison, Jonathan Swift, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and other well-known personalities once resided. In the cemetery of Glasnevin lie the remains of the Irish patriots Daniel O'Connell and John Philpot Curran. Glasnevin is located in the northern part of Dublin near Dublin City University and is where many of the host families are located.



Dublin City University: Morning class meetings will be held in the Grattan Building located on the Dublin City University campus. The comfortable, intimate DCU classroom will be the convenient staging area for a number of excursions into both the city of Dublin, as well as the surrounding countryside. On Thursdays and Fridays the group normally visits the Irish Film Institute (IFI). The Irish Film Institute is located in Temple Bar in downtown Dublin. Its mission is to preserve, present and promote film culture in Ireland.



Grattan Building, DCU

Dublin City University was established in 1980 to respond to the challenges being set for higher education by rapidly diversifying industrial and business sectors in Ireland and in the European Union. The University is located on a fifty acre campus in the northern suburbs of Dublin. It thus offers the merits of a city location with easy access to public transport, shops, accommodation and entertainment venues and to a wide range of cultural, recreational and historical amenities. In the last several years the University has been rapidly developing its campus infrastructure and now includes one of the largest libraries in Ireland.



Program participants mingle in the IFI Lobby

ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive six semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in two of the following Communications or English courses. The courses taken while participating in this program *cannot* be audited.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT - (Choose one of the two options listed)	
COMMUNICATION COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>COMS 454 <i>Transnational Communication and Media</i> Description: Study of the development, structure, functions, and control of international communications media systems and activities as they affect world relations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>COMS 496M <i>Special Topics in Media Studies - Cinema and Nationalism</i> May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when topic varies.</p>	
- OR -	
ENGLISH COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>ENGL 363 <i>Literature and Film</i> Description: Relationship between film and literature, with specific attention to the aesthetic impact of narrative, drama, and poetry on film and to the significance in film of romanticism, realism, and expressionism as literary modes. Nature and history of the adaptation of literary works to film.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>ENGL 400 <i>Literary Topics - Irish Film and Literature</i> Description: The relationship among the themes, styles, cultural traditions and influences of modern Irish writing and filmmaking. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when topic varies.</p>	
- OR -	
HISTORY COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>HIST 390 <i>Film and History</i> Description: Historical analysis of film as evidence and representation. Examination of documentary, propaganda, historical, and fictional feature films across cultures, to explore how films recreate history for public consumption, the value and implications of film representation for national histories, and recent debates about both the validity of film as public history and the impact of film on historical writing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>HIST 498R <i>Special Topics in History: Media and Culture in Ireland</i> Description: Selected themes or problems. Topics announced. May be repeated when subject varies.</p>	

GRADUATE CREDIT - (Choose one of the two options listed)	
COMMUNICATION COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>COMS 454 <i>Transnational Communication and Media</i> Description: Study of the development, structure, functions, and control of international communications media systems and activities as they affect world relations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>COMS 549 <i>Media and Culture in Ireland</i> Description: Survey of Irish film and television against the historical, political, and cultural traditions of Ireland. Irish media as it has developed in competition with Hollywood and British representation of Ireland.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p>	
ENGLISH COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>ENGL 591 <i>Topics in Literature and Film: Irish Film and Literature</i> Description: Topics in film theory, history, and criticism, such as authorship, narrativity, adaptation, and popular genres, that have interdisciplinary value for English studies. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when topic varies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>ENGL 507 <i>Topics in Literature: Irish Film and Literature</i> Description: Topics in film theory, history, and criticism, such as authorship, narrativity, adaptation, and popular genres that have interdisciplinary value for English studies. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when topic varies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- OR -</p>	
HISTORY COURSES	6 semester hours
<p>HIST 590 <i>Reading Seminar in General/Comparative History</i> Description: Intensive reading and discussion in historical topics that combine or fall outside of conventional subject fields. Topics announced. Certain topics may be counted toward a student's primary or secondary field requirement with permission of the director of graduate studies. May be repeated to maximum of 12 semester hours when topic varies. Prerequisite: Consent of department.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>HIST 498R <i>Special Topics in History: Media and Culture in Ireland</i> Description: Selected themes or problems. Topics announced. Each lettered topic may be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours when subject varies; however, a maximum of 9 additional semester hours of HIST 498 may be counted toward the M.A. program in history, and a maximum of 9 additional semester hours may be counted toward the Ph.D. program in history.</p>	

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS: Students will typically spend three hours in the morning attending lectures often by various Irish scholars and experts in the area. In the afternoon, students usually spend about four hours per day outside the classroom. These activities may

consist of viewing films at the Irish Film Centre or going on excursions to places of cultural and historical interest in the Dublin area. Students are free to travel where they wish on the weekend. Past students have organized trips to Galway, Cork, Belfast, and Donegal during the weekends. One weekend will be devoted to the Galway Film Festival. Bus transportation and overnight accommodations are provided. Students will be expected to write academic journals for course credit. There will be a final examination in the last week of the course. Graduate students will write a formal paper upon return to the U.S. This paper will be due by no later than August 6, 2008. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.**

HEALTH: Maintaining good health is of paramount importance when studying overseas. Changes in climate and the fast pace of travel may cause health problems abroad. When considering a study abroad program it is important for students to be aware of the things that can affect their health, thereby permitting students to enjoy their time abroad more fully.



General good health is required for this program since students live with host families in the neighborhood of Dublin City University and will have a 15 to 20 minute walk every day to campus. Bus transportation may be available, but sometimes requires changing buses more than once. Twice a week the program screens films in the city centre at the Irish Film Centre--not a long trip from the host homes, but one that requires travel on city buses and walking/traversing several blocks in busy downtown Dublin.

NIU ADMISSION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: The program is open to individuals who have an interest in the areas of communication, film, literature, and media studies. Currently enrolled students must meet NIU Graduate School and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GPA requirements. NIU Students on academic probation during the semester prior to the program are not eligible for participation.

All interested individuals are to complete and return the attached Application for Participation in a 2008 Study Abroad Program and Course Preference Form along with a check or money order for \$200 made payable to NIU to the Study Abroad Office in Williston Hall 417.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant's official transcript must be on file in the Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have **not** previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not **currently** enrolled at NIU, should ask the registrar at their home institution to forward an official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued and photocopied transcripts are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the NIU Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL)

within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled nor previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Students issues and photocopied transcripts are not acceptable.)

NIU Students cannot have any encumbrances against their records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

APPLICATION FORMS AND DEPOSIT: Applicants must submit the following at the time of application:

1. Application for NIU Administered Study Abroad Programs
2. Student Application Agreement
3. Course Preference Form
4. Housing Form
5. Three (3) passport size photos for the International Student ID Card, Housing Form, and Irish Student Travel Card
6. A clear and readable copy of the first page of your passport
7. \$200 deposit

\$200 DEPOSIT: Each application is to be accompanied by a \$200 check or money order (made payable to NIU) and the \$200 will be applied to the program cost. **Applications that are not accompanied by the \$200 deposit will be returned to the sender.** (*This \$200 is also required of individuals who will be applying for financial aid.*)

FINAL DATE FOR APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM: May 1, 2008. Applications submitted to the SAO after May 1, 2008 must be accompanied by a check or money order for the full program cost to be considered for acceptance in this program. Applications not accompanied by the full program cost cannot be accepted by the Study Abroad Office. Students should be advised that this is a popular program with limited enrollment. Waiting lists have been established as early as February in recent years.

TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements between the U.S. and Dublin and for purchasing their own tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in Dublin in time for the official beginning of the program (June 22), they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than June 21.

For information regarding airfares and airlines students may also wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet.

HOUSING AND MEALS: Students will stay in private residences near DCU during the period Sunday, June 22 through the night of Saturday, July 19, 2008. The program officially ends on Friday, July 18; however, students' flights might not depart until Sunday, July 20. For this reason students will be allowed to stay on with their host family the nights of July 18 and 19. Students must, however, depart no later than Sunday, July 20. This plan includes breakfast and dinner, and the students often pack lunches from their host family. Each year students have found this plan a great way to get to know Irish people up close. The families are well experienced with having international visitors through the Irish CELT Agency, an agency that coordinates a variety of international study programs. Many of the families have hosted students in this program for many years.



Statue of Molly Malone Dublin

LAND TRANSPORTATION: Once in Dublin, students will be given bus passes which will permit unlimited travel on local (Dublin City) buses. While the bus passes can be very helpful in getting around in Dublin, a great deal of walking is also necessary as stated on page 6.

FIELD TRIPS: Students will travel by private coach during field trips. Most admission fees required for entry into the various studios and cultural/historical sites to be visited as part of the final daily schedule of activities will be paid as part of the NIU program cost. (See *Sample Itinerary* for information on sites visited in previous years' programs.)



PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT-- All participants are required to **possess** a valid passport by May 1, 2008. *Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.* Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. (Applicants applying after May 1, 2008 may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago Passport Agency. If applicants are not within the Chicago area, they must apply at the nearest passport agency.) Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html.

VISA: A visa is not required for U.S. passport holders who will be in Ireland for a tourist or business stay of up to three months. Non-U.S. passport holders may need a special visa for travel in Ireland **and are responsible for making the necessary inquiries and for the visa application process.**

NIU STUDENT ACCIDENT AND ILLNESS INSURANCE PLAN: NIU requires all study abroad students to be covered under the NIU Student Accident & Illness Insurance Plan. The premium has been paid as part of the NIU program costs. Enrollment in this plan is mandatory and will not be waived.

Because enrollment in the insurance plan for the spring semesters extends through the summer term, students already enrolled during the spring semester will be given a credit on their program cost.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: These cards are provided as part of the program cost. The International Student I.D. card can, among other things, provide discounts on Dublin City bus passes and rail passes for excursions in Ireland and other countries, in addition to international airfare. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program.



The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later. *Students should, however, have a more comprehensive insurance plan to supplement the ID insurance.*

NIU PROGRAM COST: The cost of the four-week program in Ireland is payable in full to NIU by **May 1, 2008**. The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

- Housing and meals in a private residence during the period June 22 to July 18 (28 nights).
- Most admission fees required during program related field trips.
- International Student Identification Card.
- NIU tuition for 6 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit.
- NIU major medical insurance.

PROGRAM COST: \$4,275*

*All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COST TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Cost of acquiring an American passport (approximately \$115)
- Roundtrip airfare between the U.S. and Dublin
- \$30 Undergraduate application fee (**Non-NIU** undergraduate students only)
- Purchases of a personal nature
- Independent travel



FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, you *may* be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford

Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply.

Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Administrative Assistant, in Williston Hall 417, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM: Applicants withdrawing from the program after April 1, 2008 will not be refunded the \$200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated on their behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after April 1, 2008 for medical reasons, the \$200 deposit will be refunded only if the request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement from a physician on the physician's letterhead. After this deadline, all funds obligated on your behalf can only be refunded if those monies are refunded to NIU by overseas agents and vendors.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Ireland, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. In the event that the program is canceled by the Study Abroad Office or one of the overseas vendors, students shall receive a full refund of all monies. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Ireland, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

QUOTES FROM FORMER PARTICIPANTS

“(Educationally), I learned a great deal more about Irish culture, people and politics. (Personally), I had the time of my life! I can't wait to go back!”

“I thought the program was grand! The blend of classroom lecture, mixed with “hands-on” experience was the best way I could imagine to learn about Ireland”

“This is definitely an experience I think everyone should do at least once throughout their college career. It makes you appreciate other cultures, as well as your own. It's probably one of the greatest learning experiences I've ever had.”

NIU Study Abroad Office Website: <http://www.niu.edu/niuabroad>

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!