



# English 45: Studies in Fiction Irish Literature and Its Global Influence/s



Frederick Douglass mural, Northumberland Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Though Ireland is a small island, it has produced literature renowned for its power and artistry. People around the world have responded to its themes of connection to land, language and identity, and rebellion in the face of oppression. In turn, Irish authors who wrestle with religious repression, sexism, and racism have been influenced by authors and social movements around the world, as indicated by this Frederick Douglass mural commemorating his visit to Belfast. Readings and films will be studied for their craft, their reflection of Irish cultural identity, and the influence they have had on and take from other cultures.

**Students will help decide on readings, according to their interests; visit <http://lpc1.clpccd.cc.ca.us/lpc/ceagan/> for potential readings**

**Tu/Th 11-12:15, Room 106 (stay tuned for location!)**

Prerequisite: ENG 1A (completed with a grade of “C” or higher)

Transfer: CSU GE: C2; UC IGETC: 3B; Counts for English AA/ADT

English 45, Fall 2015: Studies in Fiction (with a little poetry, film, and drama thrown in)  
Irish Literature and Its Global Influence/s

*Possible Themes and Related Texts:*

**Students will help decide on readings and films, according to their interests: we will likely read two novels, some novel excerpts, and some short stories. We will also screen 1-2 films.**

Loss of language and land in colonized and immigrant communities—*Translation, The Field*  
Plantation Society in Ireland and the American South—Irish “slavery,” African slavery, and  
plantation gentry decay—*Dracula, Queen Lear, Gone with the Wind*  
Nationalism and Identity—*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Patrick Pearse’s and Yeats’ poetry  
Catholicism Embattled—Blowing the Lid off the “containment” culture—clergy abuse, Oscar Wilde’s  
sodomy trial, and anti-feminism in Ireland—*The Picture of Dorian Gray, A Portrait of the*  
*Artist as a Young Man, “Sarah,” The Magdalen Laundries*  
The Irish Renaissance and its Influence on the Harlem Renaissance—Yeats, Synge’s *Playboy*, and  
Harlem Renaissance’s Claude McKay, Paul Green, and Marcus Garvey  
Anti-Colonial Resistance in Ireland, Palestine, and South Africa—*Narrative of the Life of Frederick*  
*Douglass*, Speeches of Daniel O’Connell and Gerry Adams  
Cross-Racial Solidarity, Racism, and the Challenges of Multiculturalism in a Modern Ireland of  
Immigrants—*The Commitments, The Deportees, Whose Life Is It, Anyway?*  
White Racial Identity in Ireland and Irish America—*Mary Lee, Map of Ireland*  
Ireland and the Legacy of Famine—*Confessions of Connaught, The Butcher Boy*  
Feminism and Women’s Fight for Control over their Bodies—stories of Mary Lavin, Angela Bourke,  
Edna O’Brien or Kate O’Brien, along with Margo Harkin’s film *Hush-a-Bye Baby*  
Northern Ireland’s Religious Sectarianism and Hybridity—*Fool’s Sanctuary, “The Last of Deeds”*

*Details, Related Readings and Films:*

John Boyce, *Mary Lee* (novel)  
Brian Friel, *Translation* (play)  
*The Field* (film)  
Molly Keane, *Queen Lear* (novel)  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (novel)  
*Gone with the Wind* (film)  
W. B. Yeats and Patrick Pearse (poetry)  
J. M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* (play), adapted by Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle  
Roddy Doyle, *The Commitments* (film) and *The Deportees* (short story collection)  
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (novel, excerpts)  
Mary Lavin, “Sarah” (short story)  
Sinéad Moriarty, *Whose Life Is It, Anyway?* (novel)  
Stephanie Grant, *Map of Ireland* (novel)  
*Hush-a-Bye Baby* (film)  
*The Magdalen Laundries* (film)  
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (novel)  
Patrick McCabe, *The Butcher Boy* (novel and film)  
Jennifer Johnston, *Fool’s Sanctuary* (novel)  
Eoin McNamee, “The Last of Deeds” (novella)