

IRISH STUDIES (IRST)

IRST 101. Introduction to Irish Studies. 3 Credits.

This course provides an introduction to Irish history and culture from the pre-Celt period to the present day. While the core approach is historical, students are introduced to Irish language, literature, filmography, landscape, music, politics, sports, poetry, theater, law and more. Students also look at the various methodological approaches for understanding Ireland, past and present.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall

UC: Humanities, Intercultural Understand

IRST 150. Irish Myths and Legends. 3 Credits.

This course examines the evolution of Irish folklore, myths, history and legends through the examination of key myths and legends, including The Children of Lir, Cuchulainn, the giant Finn Mac Cool, The Selkie (a beautiful sea creature, who features in the legends of other sea-faring nations), and Tír na nÓg (the land of the young), and many other legends. We also examine the role of fairies, banshees, goblins and leprechauns (who are mean and devious) in Irish culture. Finally, we look at how the early Christian church co-opted many pagan practices, some of which continue to this day (Halloween, for example). Students gain an insight into a unique and ancient culture through examining myths and legends that are distinctive, yet remain universal in the messages at their core, and which are often shared by other indigenous peoples.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, January Term

UC: Breadth Elective, Humanities

IRST 300. Special Topics in Irish History. 3 Credits.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: As needed

IRST 301. Irish Studies Capstone. 3 Credits.

This research capstone is undertaken in the final year of study. It is intended to bring reflection and focus to the Irish Studies minor by allowing the student to undertake a major piece of independent research based on the skills, experiences and knowledge acquired during their course of study. The student identifies a research topic and creates a research question that is appropriate to the area being studied. With the guidance of her/his supervisor and the appropriate librarian, the student creates a reading list and a timetable for completion. Students are encouraged to utilize the rich body of Irish resources available at Quinnipiac University. The semester-long project culminates in a 5,000 to 7,000-word essay (or with prior agreement, presentation, performance or other appropriate product) that demonstrates evidence of original research and critical thinking.

Prerequisites: Take IRST 101.

Offered: As needed