EN 272 Creative Writing II - 5 ECTS

Throughout this course students will be introduced to writing, both poetry and prose. The workshops will focus on the practicalities of writing, editing and giving and taking criticism of work. Students will be expected to produce writing for discussion and criticism and to work on developing these extracts in the light of that criticism. Students will also look critically at the work of established writers.

**Primary texts (all available on dropbox):**

Guests of the Nation

So Much Water So Close to Home

The Story of the Widow

**Preliminary Reading**

Students should read all of the primary texts in advance of the course.

**Course Materials**

The texts of the primary texts are all available online by following the above links.

Secondary material will be made available on Moodle and/or dropbox before the start of the summer school.

In addition NUIM library has an extensive collection of critical material on Irish literature; students are encouraged to make use of this during their stay in Maynooth. The library also subscribes to the major electronic databases, and also the *Cambridge Companions Online*.

**Assessment**

Continuous and the submission of an original piece of creative writing.

**Prerequisites**

None
Preliminary Class Outline:

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<th>Class</th>
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| Class 1 | Introduction and getting to know you session  
|         | The short story - *The Story of the Widow's Son*: Mary Lavin. An exploration of aspects of story, character and landscape  
| Class 2 | *Guests of the Nation*: Frank O'Connor - the universality of the human condition - O'Connor's story transposed to other cultures  
|         | Writing exercise: creation of a story line - drawing from our own experiences to create a fictional narrative  
| Class 3 | Creating a character - workshopping the outline of characters for fiction using drama/role play as a means towards an end  
|         | Drafting an outline of story; character and setting  
| Class 4 | Field Trip to the mediaeval village of Castledermot - experiencing a variety of landscapes; meeting mediaeval characters; hearing the stories of a community and experiencing the historical and geographical outline of the countryside  
| Class 5 | Dialogue - hearing the voices of your characters and honing them  
|         | *So Much Water so Close to Home*: Raymond Carver - exploration of landscape; character; dialogue through Carver's story  
| Class 6 | Getting the bits together - working towards a clear idea of how your story will begin and develop. *The Selfish Giant*: Oscar Wilde  
| Class 7 | Submission of the first draft of your story which we'll workshop and develop with particular emphasis on narrative; setting; dialogue and character  
| Class 8 | Submission and reading of the work.  