

ENG4516: Northern Ireland (2022)

Assessment guidelines: Term paper

Level: the course is aimed at MA students and those of equivalent background.

Highly successful essays should:

- Respond with direct relevance to the question, paying close attention to its key terms and concepts
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of, and strong critical engagement with, the history and/or literature and culture of Northern Ireland
- Deploy a high level of analysis and critical thinking
- Communicate effectively and fluently in appropriate academic English
- Be well presented and thoroughly documented, with a clear and consistent referencing style
- Deploy and engage with a range of well-chosen secondary materials
- Offer some distinctive or original perspectives

Moderately successful essays should:

- Offer a response which is mainly of relevance to the question and its terms
- Demonstrate some understanding of, and engagement with, the area, periods and texts in question
- Make use of some appropriate secondary materials
- Show some evidence of the ability to analyse material
- Be written in a generally readable and fluent form and style
- Provide appropriate references

Low-scoring and failing essays will not satisfactorily meet some or all of these criteria.

Instructions

Students may EITHER write on an original topic under a title of their choosing (which must be agreed with the course teacher by the end of week 16 at the latest) OR select one of the questions below.

NB: term papers should demonstrate the ability to grasp course materials and to undertake further reading and research.

1. To what extent did the Troubles express old and underlying animosities, and to what extent did they result from new developments in Northern Irish society?
2. In what ways, and to what ends, have literary authors negotiated the vocation of the writer within the context of the Northern Ireland conflict?
3. Discuss the significance of "cultural memory" and the presence of the past in relation to Northern Irish society and/or literature.
4. Explain how aspects of the Northern Ireland conflict were resolved by the peace process, and discuss some ways in which aspects remain wholly or partly unresolved.
5. Consider the relationship between the personal and the political in examples of modern Northern Irish literature and/or culture.
6. How did the Home Rule crisis and the events that followed shape the modern province of Northern Ireland?
7. What can we learn from the different ways in which Northern Irish writers have responded to the subject of violence?