**UHON 352**

**IRISH CULTURE & COMMUNICATION**

Tuesdays 5:00-7:30, Library 212

Dr. Bryan K. Crow, Communication Studies
Office: Communications Building 2248   Office Hours: MW 2-5
Phone: 453-1884   email: bcrow@siu.edu

**Required Books:**
Kate Horsley, *Confessions of a Pagan Nun* (2001)

**Goal:**
This course offers a framework for developing a better understanding of any culture (in this case Ireland) by examining its languages, traditions, everyday cultural practices, history, artistic creations, beliefs, landscapes, and stories.

**Topics:**
Overview of Irish history & geopolitical divisions
Celtic lands & languages
Irish myths and legends
Romanticism & authenticity
Irish landscapes & historical ecology
Framework for critical cultural studies
Irish language in an English-dominant nation & abroad
Irish films (feature films, shorts, documentaries) & films about Ireland
Irish media (radio, television, advertising, print media, web)
Irish literature (novelists, poets, playwrights) & art
Irish music (traditional, contemporary, pop, rock) & dance (festivals, fleadhs)
Irish society & lifestyles (religion, family, work, education, politics)
Travelers & new immigrants
Irish-American cultural studies (immigration, race, genealogy, diaspora)
The “Celtic Tiger” economic phenomenon & aftermath
Northern Irish Troubles, peace process, cross-border collaboration
Tourism & the marketing of Ireland & Irishness
Irish sports
Drinking, pubs, Guinness, Jameson, alcoholism

Evaluation:
8 Weekly Writings (20%)—Graded after each set of 4
2 Critical Film Analyses (20%; each worth 10%)—Feb. 23, April 12/19/26
Poet Report (10%)—(10 min. each)—Feb. 9, 16, March 1
Midterm Exam (10%)—Take-home exam, due March 8
Individual Research Presentation (20%)—April 12, 19, 26 (30 min. each)
Final Exam (10%)—Tuesday May 10, 5:00-7:00 (open books & notes, laptop)
Participation (10%)—Regular contributions to class discussions

Attendance: Your attendance at all class meetings is essential since we only meet once a week (a longer time slot which allows for several feature film screenings). Each unexcused absence after the first one will count off 3 points out of the 100 points possible for the final grade. Please let me know ahead of time if you have to miss class for an excusable reason. Also, please do not schedule other appointments during class time. We will take a break halfway through each class except during films.

Assignments: Late assignments will lose one-third of a letter grade for each class session it's late. All work must be your own original work, with sources cited appropriately. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to University policy.

Participation: Regular participation in discussion is expected each week. You can also participate outside of class by talking with me before or after class or during office hours as well as emailing me with any questions or suggestions you have. At a minimum, good participation involves being on time for class, staying awake in class, being prepared to take notes each week, not checking cell phones or laptops except during breaks, and being prepared to discuss each week's readings by offering your observations, comments, or questions as well as responding supportively to your classmates.

Additional opportunities:
• Tune in to Celtic Connections each week on WSIU-FM 91.9,
Saturdays 7:00, Sundays 6:00, hosted by yours truly! (also online at www.wsju.org/live at those same times)

- St. Patrick’s Day in Carbondale: Irish music at Pinch Penny Pub by The Dorians!
- SIU Study-Abroad trip to Ireland, June 16-July 3, 2016
- Other local music sessions, concerts, speakers, films, etc. will be announced as they become known.