

FINAL EXAM: IRISH LITERATURE

Choose One and be sure to discuss at least four separate works (by *four separate writers*) and two of the following genres in any of your responses: fiction, poetry, and drama. Submit this topic sheet along with your response.

1.) In his essay of introduction Seamus Deane argues that “colonialism is a process of radical dispossession.” Indeed, possessions and land of the colonized are lost, but more subtle losses involve personal and cultural issues. Using four works analyze the latter forms of dispossession.

2.) In Irish life and literature there is a constant tension between the impulse to stay and to leave. The departure can take many forms, though the most common is, of course, emigration. Choosing four works, analyze various responses to this impulse; who wants to stay and why and on what terms; who wants to go and why, etc.?

3.) In an influential book entitled *The Empire Writes Back*, the editors collect essays that reveal the ways in which colonized people reject, undermine, or manipulate their colonizers. Choosing four works, analyze the ways in which these postcolonial texts “write back,” by resisting, undermining, or manipulating the stereotypes of their colonizers. Be sure to define terms clearly and specifically.

4.) The Irish writer John Montague has said, “One explores an inheritance to free oneself and others.” Analyze and discuss the significance of this statement in relation to four works we have read this semester. What must one be freed of, how, and who is doing the freeing?

Due: Monday, December 8, in class--no exceptions

Length: 5-6 pages

Format: Papers should be neat and free of extreme typographical errors. Double-space and use 1" margins. Use no less than and no more than a 12 pt font. Number pages, beginning with second page, in upper right hand corner, and secure pages only with a staple in the upper left hand corner. On a cover page center the title and put in the lower right hand corner your name, the date the assignment is due, the topic number you are addressing, and my name. No back-to-back printing.