

BA English and Media Studies

HANDBOOK 2023/2024

This handbook provides information and support in relation to the Media Studies elements of your programme. It should be read in conjunction with the English Student Handbook for your year (which provides definitive details about English (EN) modules, as well as general information related to the discipline of English) and discipline-specific information from your other minor.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024

	Semester One	Semester Two	Second Sitting
Classes	4 September to 24 November	8 January to 28 March	
Study Period	27 November to 3 December	8 April to 12 April	
Exam Period	4 December to 15 December	15 April to 1 May	6 August to 16 August
Break	16 December to 7 January	29 March to 7 April	
Campus Holidays	30 October	5 February, 18 March, 29 March, 1 April, 6 May	3 June, 5 August

ACADEMIC CONTACTS:

Dr Andrew Ó Baoill Programme Coordinator Office: TA513 andrew.obaoill@universityofgalway.ie	Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan Head of English Office: TA508 MarieLouise.Coolahan@universityofgalway.ie
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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

Discipline of English TA511 mediastudies@universityofgalway.ie
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CRISIS CONTACTS

In a crisis situation, please contact:

- National Crisis Textline – Text NUIG (or any message) to 50808
- University of Galway Student Counselling – email: counselling@universityofgalway.ie
- Student Health Unit – call 091 492 604 or email: healthunit@universityofgalway.ie
- Chaplaincy service – call or text 087 203 7538 (also emergency laptop loan)

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

English at University of Galway is committed to the welfare and wellbeing of our students alongside academic excellence. Do please check all available sources of information and come forward if you need help:

1. [University of Galway English website](#) should be your first port of call for all information about English (including the BA (English & Media Studies)).
2. [Canvas](#) (which has replaced Blackboard) is an important online portal of information about courses and assessments. Students should be checking in on Canvas regularly for important updates throughout the term. Individual module pages will contain extra resources and information that may help you. There is also a 24/7 help function within Canvas if you need help navigating your way around.
3. [University of Galway College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies](#). The College of Arts office handles most queries about overall subject choices or clashes, repeats, assessment appeals and so on.
4. [Registration](#): As a returning student to Galway, you must register online here This facility opens on 21st August 2023 and again in early January 2024, when you may adjust your Semester 2 module selections Queries regarding registration difficulties, should be addressed to registration@universityofgalway.ie
5. [Email](#). Periodic communications from English and the university are sent to registered students via their universityofgalway.ie student email accounts. For this reason, students should check this email on a regular basis, and should use it when possible for contacting the university in any context (see email etiquette).
6. The English Staff-Student Committee meets each term and can be a good means of communicating with the department. Wider course feedback, general issues or particular student concerns can be recognised and dealt with quickly. Consider contacting your class representative, or becoming a class rep.
7. [Student Services](#) provides counselling, financial advice, and career guidance to all students. We all need help sometimes: do get in touch with them if you feel stressed, depressed, or not yourself in some way – or simply if you just need advice.
8. [The Access Office](#) supports those with illness, learning difficulties, disability and can help provide extra resources and facilities.
9. [Library Services](#). The James Hardiman Library provides all kinds helpful support services concerning academic and research skills, book and source-finding, referencing, plagiarism, and free laptop loans. The Academic Skills Team are located in the library foyer and are there to assist you too. For further resources see: [Academic Skills](#) [Guides and tutorials](#) [Specialised English help](#)
10. [The Academic Writing Centre](#) in the James Hardiman Library provides individual specialized help for students in managing and completing assessments of all kinds. Staffed by experienced and understanding student tutors and aimed at students at all levels, it is there for all your writing needs.

HANDBOOK 2023/2024	1
ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024.....	1
ACADEMIC CONTACTS:.....	1
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:.....	1
CRISIS CONTACTS.....	1
INFORMATION AND SUPPORT.....	2
OVERVIEW	4
MISSION	4
STRUCTURE	4
MODULE DESCRIPTIONS	5
<i>Semester One</i>	5
<i>Semester Two</i>	5
<i>Your Minor</i>	7
TIMETABLE (FOURTH YEAR)	9
<i>Semester One</i>	9
<i>Semester Two</i>	10
WEEK BY WEEK CALENDAR	11
REGULATIONS AND PROCESSES	13
ATTENDANCE.....	13
STYLE GUIDE.....	13
EXAMINATIONS.....	13
REPEAT OPPORTUNITIES.....	13
ACADEMIC HONESTY	14
CANVAS AND ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION	14
COMMUNICATION AND EVALUATION	15
EMAIL CONTACT AND SUPPORT.....	15
EMAIL ETIQUETTE AND RESPONSE TIMES:.....	15
CLASS REPRESENTATIVES AND FEEDBACK.....	16
EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	16

OVERVIEW

MISSION

The BA (English and Media Studies) offers students a two-pronged approach to the study of literature and culture. The study of English involves the examination of creative expression in all its forms: novels, plays, poems, film, art. The media studies option provides an additional pathway to this traditional study, offering analysis of media, past and present, with attention to issues of representation, identity, and other social concerns. Students taking this programme also take another Arts subject as a ‘minor’.

STRUCTURE

- A full academic year consists of 60 ECTS (academic credits) of coursework.
- Each 5 ECTS module will have an expected workload of at least 100 hours, including contact hours (lecture, labs, etc.), preparation/reading, and completion of assignments. On this basis, 60 ECTS has an expected workload of 40 hours per week over 30 weeks.
- Students are responsible for registering for modules themselves, and for confirming that they are registered for the correct modules. Failing to register for all required modules may cause difficulties later.
- Students are responsible for avoiding schedule clashes in their choice of modules.

	English*	Media Studies	Subject B †
Final Year	30 ECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take 2 lecture modules and a seminar module in each semester. 	15 ECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MES4100 (core, 10 ECTS) • One of (limits may apply): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EN464.I ○ EN3120 ○ EN464.II 	15 ECTS

The optional Final Year modules in the Media Studies minor (listed above) are drawn from seminars delivered through English. You will only see these modules listed as available in the Media Studies minor. If you want to choose a second one of these modules to fulfill an English seminar requirement, you should, first, register for one of the available seminars available to you in English (as there may not be spaces remaining in your preferred seminar). Then contact mediastudies@universityofgalway.ie with details of your preferred seminar. If there is space we will arrange to transfer you. Similarly, if there is insufficient capacity in the seminars designated for the Media Studies minor, we will work directly with you to arrange an alternative.

* See the English Student Handbook, which is the definitive source of information about your English modules.

† Information on ‘Subject B’, your second minor, is available directly from that Discipline.

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Notes:

- Media Studies: Register for **MES4100** (10 ECTS) and one from a **selection of seminars** (5 ECTS).

Semester One

CODE	TITLE
EN464.I	<p>Negotiating Identities</p> <p>Ms. Teresa Dunne and Ms. Rachel Andrews</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to twentieth-century Irish literature in English and the Irish language (in translation). It considers how writers have participated in the negotiation of modern and contemporary Irish identities. Through a close critical reading of key selected texts, it will investigate the ways in which writers have imagined and re-imagined Ireland and Irishness from the literary and cultural revival of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through to the new millennium. Issues to be addressed will include Ireland’s transition from a traditional to a modern society, language, gender, and the connections between literary production and the imagined ‘nation’. Knowledge of Irish is not necessary for this course, as all Irish language texts will be studied in English translation.</p> <p><u>Texts covered in the module include:</u></p> <p>Pádraic Mac Pearse’s poem ‘Mise Éire’, Pádraic Ó Conaire’s short story ‘My Dark Slender Poet’, Yeats and Gregory’s “Manifesto for Irish Literary Theatre”, Synge’s play <i>A Playboy of The Western World</i> , Extracts From Peig Sayers <i>Peig</i> , Selected Poems by Máirtín Ó Direáin, James Joyce’s <i>Dubliners</i> (selected stories), Myles na gCopaleen’s <i>The Poor Mouth</i>, Máirtín Ó Cadhain’s Short story ‘The Key’, Edna O’Brien’s <i>The Country Girls</i> and Selected Poems by Eavan Boland, Selected Poems by Máire Mhac an tSaoi, Selected Poems by Seán Ó Ríordáin, Brian Friel’s play <i>Translations</i>, Selected Poems by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill Selected Poems by Gearóid Mac Lochlainn, Selected Poems by Doireann Ní Ghríofa and Melatu Uche Okorie <i>This Hostel Life</i></p>

Semester Two

CODE	TITLE
EN3120	<p>Technology And Culture</p> <p>Dr Andrew Ó Baoill</p> <p>Does technology shape society, or do our social structures drive how technology develops? What do we mean by 'new media' and how does it differ from 'old' media forms? There are numerous schools of thought on</p>

	<p>how to properly understand the interplay of technology and culture, from McLuhan's claim that "the medium is the message" to various forms of social constructivism. In this class, we will explore these issues drawing on contemporary case studies and the work of a range of influential thinkers.</p>
<p>EN464.II</p>	<p>Negotiating Identities</p> <p>Dr Nessa Cronin and Mr John Brady</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to twentieth-century Irish literature in English and the Irish language (in translation). It considers how writers have participated in the negotiation of modern and contemporary Irish identities. Through a close critical reading of key selected texts, it will investigate the ways in which writers have imagined and re-imagined Ireland and Irishness from the literary and cultural revival of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through to the new millennium. Issues to be addressed will include Ireland's transition from a traditional to a modern society, language, gender, and the connections between literary production and the imagined 'nation'. Knowledge of Irish is not necessary for this course, as all Irish language texts will be studied in English translation.</p> <p><u>Texts</u> covered in the module include:</p> <p>Pádraic Mac Pearse's poem 'Mise Éire', Pádraic Ó Conaire's short story 'My Dark Slender Poet', Yeats and Gregory's "Manifesto for Irish Literary Theatre", Synge's play <i>A Playboy of The Western World</i> , Extracts From Peig Sayers <i>Peig</i> , Selected Poems by Máirtín Ó Direáin, James Joyce's <i>Dubliners</i> (selected stories), Myles na gCopaleen's <i>The Poor Mouth</i>, Máirtín Ó Cadhain's Short story 'The Key', Edna O'Brien's <i>The Country Girls</i> and Selected Poems by Eavan Boland, Selected Poems by Máire Mhac an tSaoi, Selected Poems by Seán Ó Ríordáin, Brian Friel's play <i>Translations</i>, Selected Poems by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill Selected Poems by Gearóid Mac Lochlainn, Selected Poems by Doireann Ní Ghríofa and Melatu Uche Okorie <i>This Hostel Life</i></p>
<p>MES4100 (core)</p>	<p>Media for Social Change</p> <p>Dr Andrew Ó Baoill</p> <p>This innovative blended learning module offers students an opportunity to engage directly with international experts, develop their own research project, and learn about the use of media for social change.</p>

Your Minor

In fourth year you complete 15 ECTS in your minor. Not all modules may be available this year, due to staff absences or other timetabling issues. However, the information below should give a general idea of your options. Pay attention to the semester in which modules take place. You should avoid choices that would leave you with significantly more ECTS in one semester than another (e.g. taking all your Media Studies and second minor modules in a single semester).

PHILOSOPHY	
Semester One	Semester Two
PI399 Extended Essay	PI241 History Of Irish Thought
PI246 American Pragmatism	PI310 Topics In Applied Philosophy: Disability, Poverty And Human Freedom
PI3100 Kant's Theoretical Philosophy	PI3105 Philosophy of Nature
PI3103 Environmental Ethics	PI3106 Formal Logic 2
PI3104 Philosophy of Culture in Context	PI327 Philosophy Of Religion
PI315 Philosophy of Mind	
PI335 Moral Theory	

SOCIOLOGY 7 POLITICS	
Semester One	Semester Two
SP219 Political Sociology	SP305 Comparative Public Policy
SP3195 Equality, Diversity and Collective Action	SP3101 'Community' - Significance and Change
SP3197 Thinking Politically: The Power of Ideas	SP3103 European Union: Political Theory and Pol. Economy
SP3199 Care, Power, Information	SP3129 Sexualities, Genders and Diversities
SP3208 Contemporary American Politics	SP3133 The Northern Ireland Conflict
SP404 Development And Change	SP3134 Human Rights Advocacy: Concepts, Law and Practice
	SP3137 Youth and Society
	SP3139 Comparative Government and Politics
	SP3141 Socially-Engaged Art and Relations of Power

BA English and Media Studies – Media Studies Handbook 2023-2024

	SP3144 Political Liberty
	SP3150 Teaching Methods for the Politics and Society Classroom
	SP3192 Sociology of Religion
	SP3193 Introduction to Social Work
	SP3194 Theories of Nationalism
	SP3198 Songs of Rebellion: Power, Resistance, and Affect
	SP3209 The Sociology of the Bioeconomy
	SP405 Contemporary Social Thought
	SP419 Marxist Theory
	SP420 Sociology Of The Environment
	SP618 Welfare Words: Key Words in Social Work & Social Welfare
	SP701 Children & Young People in Families Today
	SP705.II Revisiting Violence
	SP721 Ocean and Marine Politics
	SPL304 Women, Men & the Economy: Critical Explorations of Theory & Policy
	SPL315.II Smart & Liveable Cities and Suburbs
	WS821.II Thinking Differently: European Women's Studies

TIMETABLE (FOURTH YEAR)

Semester One

S 1	M	T	W	TH	F
9		EN3109 <i>O'Donohue R1</i>	EN387 AC002		ENG238 AC001 EN3146 TB306
10		EN3109 <i>O'Donohue R1</i>			EN3146 TB306
11			EN3105 TB306	EN3141 AMB1021	
12			EN3105 TB306	EN598.I <i>O'Donohue R1</i>	
1		EN3159 TB306		EN598.I <i>O'Donohue R1</i> EN3144 TB306	
2	EN3110 IT203	EN3159 TB306	ENG238 IT250	EN3144 TB306	
3	EN3110 IT203		EN464.I Centre for Irish Studies EN2146 AC203	EN459.I TB306	
4	EN387 AC001		EN464.I Centre for Irish Studies EN2146 AC203 EN280.I AMB- G010	EN459.I TB306	
5		EN3141 IT250	EN280.I AMB- G010		

Semester Two

S 2	M	T	W	TH	F
9			ENG228 SC001	EN3145 TB303	EN464.II Centre for Irish Studies
		EN3109 O'Donohue R1			
10		EN280.I CA004		EN3145 TB303	
		EN3109 O'Donohue R1			
11				EN3138 IT250	
12		MES4100 TBA		MES4100 TBA	
1	EN345.II TB306	EN464.II Centre for Irish Studies	EN3137 TB306	EN459.II AMBG043	EN388 AC002
		EN280.II TB303			
2	EN345.II TB306	EN280.II TB303	EN3137 TB306	EN459.II AMBG043	
	EN3112 O'Donohue R1		EN385 IT250		
3	EN3112 O'Donohue R1	EN3156 IT206		ENG232.II TB306	
		EN3120 CA002			
4	ENG228 AC001	EN3120 CA002		ENG232.II TB306	
5		EN3138 AMB1021			

Notes:

- Media Studies: Register for **MES4100** (10 ECTS) and one from a **selection of seminars** (5 ECTS).
- English: Take **two lectures** and one seminar in each semester (5 ECTS each).
- All seminars have been designated online as either **part of the Media Studies minor** OR part of the **English subject area**.
 - If you wish to substitute in a second seminar from the **Media Studies list**, you should:
 - First register for one of the available **English seminars** listed online;
 - Contact mediastudies@nuigalway.ie with your request to transfer
- You will also take modules for your minor (15 ECTS – these are not listed above).

WEEK BY WEEK CALENDAR

SEMESTER 1

Week	Start date	Activity	Other
1	4 Sep	Most classes start	
2	11 Sep	EN Seminars start	
3	18 Sep		
4	25 Sep		
5	2 Oct		
6	9 Oct	Reading & Development Week (English)	
7	16 Oct		
8	23 Oct		
9	30 Oct		P/H (Mon)
10	6 Nov		
11	13 Nov		
12	20 Nov	Final Week of Classes	
	27 Nov	Study Week	
	4 Dec	Exams	
	11 Dec		
	16 Dec	Winter Break starts	

SEMESTER 2

Week	Start date	Activity	Other
1	8 Jan	Most classes start	
2	15 Jan	EN Seminars start	
3	22 Jan		
4	29 Jan		
5	5 Feb		P/H (Mon)
6	12 Feb	Reading & Development Week (TBC)	
7	19 Feb		
8	26 Feb		
9	4 Mar		
10	11 Mar		
11	18 Mar		P/H (Mon)
12	25 Mar	Final Week of Classes	P/H (Friday)
	1 Apr	Field Trips / Easter Break / Study Week	P/H (Monday)
	8 Apr		
	15 Apr	Exams (Monday 15 April to Wednesday 1 May)	
	22 Apr		
	29 Apr		

	6 May		P/H (Mon)
	3 June	Results release – late June Consultation Day – end June	P/H (Mon)
	5 August	Repeat Exams (Tuesday 6 August to Friday 16 August)	P/H (Mon)
	12 August		

REGULATIONS AND PROCESSES

ATTENDANCE

University regulations require student attendance at scheduled class activities, including lectures, labs, and other activities scheduled within your assigned 'course block'. However, public health requirements are paramount, and it is important that you follow best practice around self-isolating, quarantine, etc., to protect yourself and others.

- DO NOT attend class if you have symptoms or have been advised to self-isolate.
- DO follow university rules and advice.
- While university rules no longer require that we wear masks when in class, and in shared campus spaces, doing so will help protect yourself and others.
- DO get medical advice if you suspect you may be infected.
- DO be kind, with others and with yourself.
- Your course grade is not directly linked to attendance. However, particularly in modules, like ours, graded entirely on a continual assessment basis, there may be in-class assessed activity that will go towards your final grade, and which cannot be repeated later or replaced by other activities. Talk with your instructor, in the first instance, if you have concerns around this.

STYLE GUIDE

- Academic assignments should use the MLA format. A summary of the general requirements of this format is available here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/>
- Assignments with creative or production elements may have additional format/style requirements as set by your instructor.

EXAMINATIONS

- English: mixture of exams and continuous assessment. Some modules are examined wholly by continuous assessment, while others are examined by a mixture of continuous assessment and end-of-semester examinations.
- Media Studies: continuous assessment and project work. Media Studies modules (those with MES-xxxx codes) are examined by continuous assessment, so there are no end-of-semester exams in these modules. Third year options will be assessed in line with the policies of the discipline from which the module comes.
- Subject B minor: mixture of exams and continuous assessment.

REPEAT OPPORTUNITIES

- Where a module is failed or deferred in Semester One or Semester Two, there will be a repeat, or 'second sitting', opportunity over the summer.

- In Media Studies, this will take the form of a take-home assignment, spanning the skills/content covered in the course, and will not necessarily be of the same or similar format to assignments given during the semester.
- Assignment deadlines will be in late July, and the assignments will be available on Canvas.
 - Students must register (and pay the appropriate fee) in order to complete repeat assignments.
 - Extensions or exemptions are not available for repeat sittings.
- Repeat examinations, for modules assessed by exam, will run in August 2024. In modules assessed by a mix of exam and continuous assessment, you may have both take-home and exam-based repeat requirements.
- It is the responsibility of individual students to ensure they are available to complete repeat work in the assigned period.
- There is a cap of 40% for results of repeat sittings from second year onward.
- Where extenuating circumstances exist, students may be granted extensions, deferrals, or other appropriate accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Academic work requires that students be the creator of the work that they submit for assessment; that they give credit where ideas (e.g. quotations, indirect quotations, substantive ideas) are drawn from the work of others; and that students may not submit the same work to fulfil separate assignments at the university.
- It is the responsibility of students to familiarise themselves with the university code on academic integrity: [Academic Integrity - University of Galway](#)
- See also the overarching Student Code of Conduct: [Policies for Students / Polasaithe do Mhic Léinn - University of Galway](#)

CANVAS AND ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

- The Canvas Course Management System is used for content delivery and assessment submission. You should be automatically registered for Canvas - and linked to your courses - upon course registration. You can - and should - access it at [Dashboard \(instructure.com\)](#)
- Please add a profile picture to your profile, to assist us in getting to know you and put names to faces outside of the classroom.
- You must submit assignments in the format, and through the method (Canvas, Email, Dropbox, hard copy, etc.) specified by your instructor. It is important that you familiarise yourself with the assignment submission process, and submit your assignment ahead of deadline.

COMMUNICATION AND EVALUATION

EMAIL CONTACT AND SUPPORT

We are here to help. However, to avoid a significant volume of unnecessary queries (especially at crunch points in the semester) we ask you to stop, think, and seek out all available information and help first. Before getting in touch do please first consult all the information in this handbook, including resources linked from it.

- For enquiries or concerns about individual modules, students are encouraged to approach relevant members of our teaching staff. If you are experiencing difficulty in dealing with the academic demands of a module you are enrolled in, please contact the individual instructor in the first instance. Academic staff hold drop-in in-person or virtual consultation hours during the semester and students can discuss any issues during these times or make an appointment. You can also contact staff by email, though problems are usually resolved far quicker in person.
- Where this does not resolve an issue, or for issues that are not specific to a particular module, you should send an email to the Media Studies programme email address, mediastudies@universityofgalway.ie.
- If you have questions that cannot be answered either by the Secretary or other sources detailed in this Handbook, the programme coordinator Dr Ó Baoill can be approached about academic concerns (andrew.obaoill@universityofgalway.ie). This is best done by dropping in during office hours, advertised at the beginning of each semester.
- The Head of English is Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan (marielouise.coolahan@universityofgalway.ie).

EMAIL ETIQUETTE AND RESPONSE TIMES:

- During semester, we endeavour to respond to email correspondence within two business days (and often sooner). If you have not heard back within this period, a follow-up reminder is encouraged. Of course, you can always raise your query in person, whether or not two days have elapsed.
- The Discipline of English provides the following guidance on email etiquette:
 - E-mail communications to lecturers should be formal, respectful, and relevant. Please include your student number as well as relevant course titles and codes. Most lecturers would prefer that students attend office hours in order to ask questions about courses. If you must send a query via e-mail, make sure that you are writing to the right person, and consider whether you would say what you have written to the lecturer's face. Include your student number with your query, and do not expect an instant reply.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES AND FEEDBACK

- Feedback on your experiences can be provided to your class representatives: they are appointed early in the year through the Student Union and meet regularly with lecturers on the staff-student committee in English.
- The discipline of English convenes a meeting with class representatives each semester. We will also run a number of sessions throughout the year to discuss progress and gather informal feedback from students about the BA (English & Media Studies) programme as a whole.
- Students are also provided with opportunities to provide formal feedback on individual modules. This usually occurs at the end of semester, but can also take place at the mid-point of the module. There are also numerous other ways in which instructors gather feedback from students throughout the semester.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Students are encouraged to get involved with campus media – Flirt FM, the student radio station, and SIN, the student union newspaper. They have proven successful spaces for learning and development by previous students, and provide opportunities for experience beyond what can be achieved in a classroom setting.
- Likewise, consider engagement with ALIVE, the campus volunteering programme, which may be able to provide contacts with local groups that might provide useful experience and challenges for you.
- Check out student societies related to your interests, such as the Literary & Debating Society, Journalism Society, Radio Society, etc.