

**“Critical thinking 1500--1800: Texts, Contexts, Cultures”** Brendan Dooley (UCC)

Semester 1: Tuesdays, 12noon-2pm This element of research training in the Texts, Contexts, Cultures pathway grounds students in a range of theoretical and material approaches to humanities research. Located in the historical period from 1500 to 1800

The module examines critical themes in the culture of knowledge mainly in Europe, between 1500 and 1800. Questions include: how did human feeling contribute to knowledge? What was nature, according to early modern people? How was beauty recorded and protected? What was the relation between philosophy and other kinds of knowing? What role did religion play in the knowledge of the self and the world? How was religious knowledge evaluated? What were place, space and time, and how did such concepts change? Theoretical as well as practical perspectives will be examined, and modern interpretations (Foucault, Toulmin, Ginzburg, Nussbaum, Bouwsma, Bendix, Darnton, Israel etc.) as well as interpretations by the early moderns. The interests of the course will be molded by the interests of participants, and bibliography will be formulated to accommodate participants' needs and interests.

Assessment: submission of ongoing research or relevant professional document in agreement with course director. Assessments are due on the last day of class.

Trinity students will meet on Tuesdays, 12noon-2pm, in Arts Block 3129, throughout semester 1. Trinity students should contact Crawford Gribben with any enquiries ([crawford.gribben@tcd.ie](mailto:crawford.gribben@tcd.ie))

NUI Galway students will meet on Tuesdays, noon-2pm, in the Moore Institute Seminar Room, throughout semester 1. NUI Galway students should contact Nicholas Allen with any enquiries ([nicholas.allen@nuigalway.ie](mailto:nicholas.allen@nuigalway.ie))

UCC students will meet on Tuesdays, 12noon-2pm in the Boole library teleconferencing room, throughout semester 1. UCC students should contact Brendan Dooley with any enquiries ([B.Dooley@ucc.ie](mailto:B.Dooley@ucc.ie))

Participants will prepare one or more selections as noted in the bibliography below and in special bibliographies for each session.

**1. Introduction 27 September**

**October 4: I'm away**

**2. Historical psychology of emotions. 11 October**

Translated selections from B. Dooley, *Amore e guerra nel tardo Rinascimento* (Polistampa, 2009)

**3. Time and Narrative. 18 October**

Benvenuti Cellini *Autobiography*, chaps. XXXIII-XXXIX (sack of Rome)  
English version by John Addington Symonds,  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4028>

**4. Space and Consciousness. 25 October**

J. B. Harley, "New England Cartography and the Native Americans," *The New Nature of Maps. Essays in the History of Cartography*, ed. P. Laxton and J. H. Andrews, Hopkins 2001

**5. Words and Things. 1 November**

Paula Findlen, "Possessing the Past: The Material World of the Italian Renaissance," *American Historical Review* 103 (1998): 83-114

**6. Truth and Power. 8 November**

Barbara Shapiro, *A Culture of Fact. England, 1550-1720*, Cornell, 2000, chap. 1.

**7. Enlightenments Old and New. 5 November**

Jonathan Israel, "Enlightenment! Which Enlightenment?" *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 67, No. 3 (Jul., 2006), pp. 523-545

**8. Picturing the Word. 22 November**

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, FROM: Laocoön, *The Limits of Poetry and Painting*, (1766)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=qR4GAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA262&lpg=PA262&dq=ovid+laocoon&source=bl&ots=i3ayhF\\_4yZ&sig=XGJkQEi3pmKINU77Lk\\_ssQA0E7U&hl=de&ei=866RSdvNI-TGjAfmuriiCg&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPR29,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=qR4GAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA262&lpg=PA262&dq=ovid+laocoon&source=bl&ots=i3ayhF_4yZ&sig=XGJkQEi3pmKINU77Lk_ssQA0E7U&hl=de&ei=866RSdvNI-TGjAfmuriiCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#PPR29,M1)

**9. The Nature of Books. 29 November**

From F. Redi, *Experiments on the Generation of Insects*, in B. Dooley, *Italy in the Baroque* (NY 1995):

<http://books.google.it/books?id=q2doAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=italy+in+the+baroque+dooley&source=bl&ots=atHZfltVM&sig=hWqbUG8PUBeg>

[IFDZLs3pXz1gh9U&hl=it&ei=AsaETLPHOMmL4gawjzRBA&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://www.google.com/search?q=IFDZLs3pXz1gh9U&hl=it&ei=AsaETLPHOMmL4gawjzRBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false)

## **10. Conclusion 6 December**

## **TOPIC 2. Historical psychology of emotions. 5 October**

Concept: How do texts of various types evince or express emotions, emotivity, passions? A recent historiography has begun tracing the history of emotions from the Renaissance to modern times. We look at some of the documents in the light of some of the conclusions.

### READINGS:

Translated selections from B. Dooley, *Amore e guerra nel tardo Rinascimento* (Polistampa, 2009)

B. Dooley, *A Mattress-Maker's Daughter: The Renaissance Romance of Don Giovanni de' Medici and Livia Vernazza* (forthcoming), chap. 4: Writing the Passions

B. Dooley, *Ibid.*, Preface and Prologue (for context)

B. Rosenwein, "Worrying about Emotions in History." *The American Historical Review* 107.3 (2002): 45 pars. 5 Sep. 2011  
<<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/107.3/ah0302000821.html>>