

## **“Critical thinking, 1900 to the present: Texts, Contexts, Cultures”**

Professor Nicholas Allen (NUIG) and Dr Crawford Gribben (TCD)

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 1900 to the present, it builds on the related seminar, Texts, Contexts, Cultures: Critical Thinking (1500-1800). The seminar's interdisciplinary framework is designed from elements of literature, history, visual arts, philosophy, and critical theory. This seminar will be broadcast throughout the TCC consortium.

Learning Outcomes: Advanced critical thinking in cultural theory; knowledge of cultural change from 1900 to the present; reading in key texts of the period; experience of different learning environments through multimedia; improved writing skills; improved research capacity as individual scholars in training; improved community of learning.

Assessment: submission of ongoing research or relevant professional document in agreement with course directors. Assessments are due on the last day of class, 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Trinity students will meet on Tuesdays, 2-4pm, in Arts Block 3129, throughout semester 1. Trinity students should contact Crawford Gribben with any enquiries (crawford.gribben@tcd.ie)

NUI Galway students will meet on Tuesdays, 2-4pm, in the Moore Institute Seminar Room, throughout semester 1. NUI Galway students should contact Nicholas Allen with any enquiries (nicholas.allen@nuigalway.ie)

UCC students will meet on Tuesdays, 2-4pm, in the Boole library teleconferencing room, throughout semester 1. UCC students should contact Brendan Dooley with any enquiries (B.Dooley@ucc.ie)

Set text: selections from Neil Badmington and Julia Thomas (eds), *The Routledge Critical and Cultural Theory Reader* (London: Routledge, 2008). Other texts available online, through library or for purchase. Please see schedule below.

## SCHEDULE

1. **Introduction** (27<sup>th</sup> September)
2. **The Historical Problem** (4<sup>th</sup> October) Reading: Walter Benjamin, 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction': Hayden White, 'The Burden of History'
3. **Read:** Frank O'Connor, 'Guests of the Nation' (11<sup>th</sup> October)
4. **Read:** W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz* (18<sup>th</sup> October)
5. **Thinking about Things** (25<sup>th</sup> October) Reading: Raymond Williams, 'Culture is Ordinary': Michel de Certeau, 'Walking in the City'
6. **Read:** James Joyce, 'The Dead', from *Dubliners* (1<sup>st</sup> November)
7. **Reading Week**
8. **Read:** Elizabeth Bowen, 'Ann Lee's', 'The Demon Lover' (15<sup>th</sup> November)
9. **Others** (22<sup>nd</sup> November) Edward Said, 'Introduction to Orientalism': Stuart Hall, 'Encoding/Decoding'
10. **Read:** Julian Barnes: *Arthur & George* (29<sup>th</sup> November)