Course Description
This course will examine the longstanding political conflict in Northern Ireland that is underwhelmingly referred to as “The Troubles.” Our investigation will span the history of “the North,” beginning with the events that led up to the 1922 treaty partitioning Ireland and concluding with the aftermath of the Good Friday Agreement and the current attempts at a “peace process.” Along the way we will read the poetry, drama, fiction, and essays of authors such as W.B. Yeats, Padraic Pearse, Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon, Frank McGuinness, Anne Devlin, Brian Friel, Rita Ann Higgins, Bobby Sands, Dierdre Madden and others. Throughout, close attention will be paid to historical context and to the complex relationship between literature and politics.

Required Texts
• Brian Friel, Translations (0571117422)
• Frank McGuinness, Plays One: The Factory Girls, Observe the Sons of Ulster, Marching Towards the Somme, Innocence, Carthaginians, Baglady (0571177409)
• A Photocopied course packet from Shipmates (in Stuyvesant Plaza)

All books are available at Mary Jane’s Bookstore, 215 Western Ave

Breakdown of Grades
• Midterm Examination 25%
• Final Examination 25%
• Final Paper 30%
• Quizzes 15%
• Participation 5%

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. After three absences, I will lower your final class grade by one third of a letter for each additional class that you miss. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. You can miss three classes, and three classes only, before your grade begins to drop. If an extenuating situation arises such as a prolonged illness or a death in the family, you should contact me immediately and your absences may be excused as long as documentation from the Undergraduate Dean’s office is obtained. It is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences.

Lateness Policy
You are late to class if you arrive after I have finished calling roll. Two late arrivals will be the equivalent of one absence. If you do arrive late, see me after class to make sure I have marked you present for the class.
Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense and, as such, instances of plagiarized materials will be dealt with harshly. Depending on the severity and the details of the case, I reserve the right to file formal disciplinary action with the University (a process that often results in suspension or expulsion) and the right to impose a grading penalty that may go so far as to issue a failing grade for the entire course. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.

From the University Guidelines on Scholastic Integrity:

Presenting as one's own work the work of another person (for example, the words, ideas, information, data, evidence, organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else). Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment, submission of another student's work as one's own, the purchase of prepared research or completed papers or projects, and the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else. Failure to indicate accurately the extent and precise nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly, or creative indebtedness, and the consequences for violating University regulations.

Examples of plagiarism include: failure to acknowledge the source(s) of even a few phrases, sentences, or paragraphs; failure to acknowledge a quotation or paraphrase of paragraph-length sections of a paper; failure to acknowledge the source(s) of a major idea or the source(s) for an ordering principle central to the paper's or project's structure; failure to acknowledge the source (quoted, paraphrased, or summarized) of major sections or passages in the paper or project; the unacknowledged use of several major ideas or extensive reliance on another person's data, evidence, or critical method; submitting as one's own work, work borrowed, stolen, or purchased from someone else.
Schedule of Readings

Week One
8/31  Introductions
9/2   Historical Background: Farrell, from Northern Ireland (pkt)

Week Two
9/7   Yeats, Cathleen ni Houlihan (pkt)

Week Three
9/16  NO CLASS

Week Four
9/23  video, Mother Ireland (in class)

Week Five

Week Six
10/5  Stewart, "The Way Through the Wood" (pkt)
      McGuinness, Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme (parts 1 and 2)
10/7  McGuinness, Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme (parts 3 and 4)

Week Seven
10/12 Friel, Translations Act 1&2
10/14 Friel, Translations Act 3

Week Eight
10/19 Midterm Exam Review
10/21 Midterm Exam

Week Nine
10/26 Excerpts from Devlin McAliskey, The Price of My Soul (pkt)
10/28 video, Bloody Sunday, McCann, "The March" (pkt) and Kinsella, “Butcher’s Dozen” (pkt)

Week Ten
11/2  Sands, One Day in My Life (pkt)
11/4  video The Hunger Strikers (in class)

Week Eleven
11/9  Kearney, “Myth and Martyrdom,” Ahmad, “Terrorism: Theirs and Ours” (pkt)
11/11 Devlin, “Naming the Names” (pkt)
Week Twelve
11/16  McCafferty, Peggy Deery 1-77
11/18  McCafferty, Peggy Deery to end (pkt)

Week Thirteen
11/23  (TBA)
11/25  NO CLASS

Week Fourteen
11/30  Higgins, “Poetry Doesn’t Pay,” “Middle-aged Irish Mothers,” “The Did-You-Come-Yets of the Western World,” “Reading,” “H-Block Shuttle” (pkt)
       Writing Workshop
12/2   Final Exam Review

Week Fifteen
12/7   Final Papers Due at beginning of class
12/10  10:30-12:30 Final Exam