

## Literature 144: W. B. Yeats

Fall 2014  
Kravis 166

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**Office Hours:**  
RS 217  
MW 2:45-4:00  
and by appt.

### Texts:

Richard J. Finneran, ed., The Yeats Reader: A Portable Compendium of Poetry, Drama, and Prose (Scribner, rev. ed.)—page references are to this book unless otherwise stated  
J. M. Synge, The Playboy of the Western World and Riders to the Sea (Dover)  
Terence Brown, The Life of W. B. Yeats (Blackwell)  
Additional readings on Sakai

### ***The Man who Dreamed of Faeryland***

#### Introduction: Sept 3

Poetic meters: William Wordsworth, "The World"; W. E. Henley, "Invictus"; Yeats, "Who Goes with Fergus?"; "Charting a Poem" (handout); "Feet and Meters" (Sakai)

### ***Romantics and Decadents***

#### Section 1: Sept 8 & 10

Brown, Life, Prologue and ch. 1-2  
Romantics (Sakai): William Blake, "A Poison Tree," "London," & from The Marriage of Heaven and Hell; William Wordsworth, "The World" & "The Solitary Reaper"; S. T. Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"  
"William Blake and the Imagination" (371)  
From Walter Pater, The Renaissance (Sakai)  
Late Victorian Poetry (Sakai): Algernon Charles Swinburne, "The Triumph of Time"; William Morris, "The Defense of Guinevere"; Dante Gabriel Rossette, "The Blessed Damozel"; Ernest Dowson, "Cynara"; Thomas Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush"; W. E. Henley, "Invictus"

### ***The Celtic Revival***

#### Section 2: Sept 15, 17, & 22

Brown, Life, ch. 3  
John Keats, "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (Sakai)  
The Wanderings of Oisín (Sakai)  
From Crossways: "Song of the Happy Shepherd" (3), "The Stolen Child" (8), "Down by the Salley Gardens" (10)  
From Reveries (281)  
From The Trembling of the Veil (293)  
The Countess Cathleen (Sakai)  
"The Celtic Element in Literature" (Sakai, from Early Essays 128)  
From The Celtic Twilight (445)  
"What is Popular Poetry?" (363)  
"Symbolism in Poetry" (374)  
From The Rose: "To the Rose upon the Rood of Time" (11), "Fergus and the Druid" (12), "The Rose of the World" (13), "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (13), "The Sorrow of Love" (14), "When You Are Old" (15), "Who Goes with Fergus" (16), "To Ireland in the Coming Times" (20); Ronsard, "Quand vous serez bien vieille" (Sakai)

Appendix 3 [on Faeries] to Lady Gregory's Visions and Beliefs of the West of Ireland (Sakai, from Late Essays 258-66)  
 "The Adoration of the Magi" (454), "Red Hanrahan" (460) and "The Death of Hanrahan" (468)

***"Was There Another Troy for Her to Burn?"***

Section 3: Sept 24, 29 & Oct 1

Brown, Life, ch. 4-5

From Memoirs (331) plus sections XVII, XXVI, XXXV, & from XXXVI [starting with paragraph on page 111 that begins "I remember Maud Gonne..."] (Sakai)

From The Wind Among the Reeds (22-29)

From In the Seven Woods: "The Folly of Being Comforted" (31), "Never Give All the Heart" (31), "Adam's Curse" (32)

From The Green Helmet and Other Poems: "No Second Troy" (37)  
 "Magic" (369)

First essay due: **Oct 3** (1000 words)

***"Players and Painted Stage Took All My Love"***

Section 4: Oct 6, 8, & 13

Brown, Life, ch. 6-9

"Introduction to Plays" (437)

"The Theatre" (Sakai, from Early Essays 122-27)

Cathleen ni Houlihan (155)

On Baile's Strand (166)

J. M. Synge, The Playboy of the Western World and Riders to the Sea

From Responsibilities: "On Those that hated 'The Playboy of the Western World', 1907 (46)

At the Hawk's Well (219)

From Journals (1909): sections 4, 11, 16, 42, 78, 82-85, 95, 105, 108-09, 198, 201, 215-18, 220 (II), 221, 226 (starting with the paragraph on page 258 that begins "Why do I write..."), & 236

***Mid-Life Swansongs:***

Section 5: Oct 15 & 22

Brown, Life, ch. 10

From Responsibilities: "September 1913" (44), "Friends" (52), "The Cold Heaven" (52), "The Dolls" (52), "A Coat" (54)

From The Wild Swans at Coole: "The Wild Swans at Coole" (56), "An Irish Airman foresees his Death" (60), "The Scholars" (62), "On Woman" (63), "The Fisherman" (64), "Memory" (65)

"Introduction [for my Work]" (422)

***"A Terrible Beauty Is Born"***

Section 6: Oct 27 & 29, Nov 3

Brown, Life, ch. 11

From Michael Robertes and the Dancer: "Easter, 1916" (76), "Sixteen Dead Men" (78), "A Prayer for My Daughter" (81), "To be carved on a Stone at Thoor Ballylee" (83)

"My Dear Willie." Letter from Maud Gonne to Yeats, 8 Nov, 1916 (Sakai)

From The Tower: "Meditations in Time of Civil War" (91), "Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen" (97)

From Last Poems: "Man and the Echo" (148)

Interlude: Sharing of research paper topics: Nov 5

***"What Rough Beast?"***

Section 7:: Nov 10, 12, and 17

Brown, Life, ch. 12

From The Wild Swans at Coole: "Ego Dominus Tuus" (69)

Per Amica Silentia Lunae (complete text on Sakai)

"Rapallo" [Introduction to A Vision (1937)], (Sakai)

From A Vision (412-420)

Yeats's System (Sakai)

From Michael Robertes and the Dancer: "The Second Coming" (80)

The Resurrection (246)

From The Tower: "Leda and the Swan" (102)

***"Bleared-Eyed Wisdom Out of Midnight Oil"***

Section 8: Nov 19, 24, & 26, Dec 1

John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (Sakai)

From The Tower: "Sailing to Byzantium" (84; see also 421), "The Tower" (85), "Among School Children" (103), "A Man Young and Old," More Yeats Poems (Sakai)

From The Winding Stair and Other Poems: "In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markiewicz" (109), "Coole Park and Ballylee, 1931" (113), "The Choice" (115), "Mohini Chatterjee" (115), "Byzantium" (116), "Vacillation" (117), "Crazy Jane Talks with the Bishop" (121), "After Long Silence" (122) "For Anne Gregory," More Yeats Poems (Sakai)

From New Poems: "Lapis Lazuli" (132)

Research paper: due **Dec 5**

***"Why Should Not Old Men Be Mad?"***

Section 9: Dec 3 & 8

The Death of Cuchulain (267)

"Why Should Not Old Men Be Mad?," More Yeats Poems (Sakai)

From Last Poems: "Under Ben Bulbin" (141), "The Black Tower" (144), "Cuchulain Comforted" (145), "Long-legged Fly" (147), "The Circus Animals' Desertion" (150)

***"The Day of His Death Was a Dark, Cold Day"***

Conclusion: Auden on Yeats: Dec 10: "In Memory of W. B. Yeats," "The Public vs. the late Mr. William Butler Yeats" (Sakai)

**Essays:** Essays are due by email at noon on **Oct 3** (1000 words) and **Dec 5** (5000 words). Give the document your name as a title and include your email address in the heading. Before writing, all students are advised to review items 3, 7, 14, and 30 in "Technical Aspects of Writing."

**Final exam:** Monday, December 15 at 2PM in KRV 166. Final exams will not be given on any other date unless due to extraordinary circumstances and with the permission of the Dean of Faculty. Travelers are advised to plan accordingly.

**Grading:** Class participation (15%), first essay (15%), research paper (35%), final exam (35%)

**Supplementary Resources on Sakai:**

Alphabetical List of Yeats's Poems  
 Charting a Poem  
 Charting Drummer Hodge  
 Feet and Meters  
 How to Write about a Poem  
 Punctuation, from Johnson, Handbook of Good English  
 Technical Aspects of Writing (along with Favorite Student Errors)  
 Thirteen Steps toward a Successful Literary Analysis  
 Trochee Fixation  
 Yeats Bibliography  
 Gyres Explained by Ellery Burgess  
 Yeats's System  
 Words of Yeats  
 Yeats Bibliography

**Books on Reserve:**

Alspach, Russell K. and Peter Allt, eds. The Variorum Edition of the Poems of W. B. Yeats. Scribner 1966. PR5900 A4 1966  
 Donoghue, Denis. William Butler Yeats. Viking, 1971. PR5907 D6  
 Ellmann, Richard. The Identity of Yeats. Norton, 1964. PR5906 EL59 ID2  
 ---. Yeats: The Man and the Masks. Norton, 1968.  
 Finneran, Richard J., ed. The Collected Works of W.B. Yeats, vol. 1 The Poems. Scribners, 1989. PR5907 J38X  
 ---. The Collected Works of W. B. Yeats, vol 2. The Plays. Scribners, 1989. PR5900.A2 F56 1989  
 Jeffares, A. Norman. A Commentary on the Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats. Stanford, 1968. PR5907.J35 C7  
 --- and A. S. Knowland. A Commentary on the Collected Plays of W. B. Yeats. Stanford, 1975. PR5907 J38X  
 Pethica, James, ed. Yeats's Poetry, Drama, and Prose. Norton Critical, 2000. PR5902 .P48 2000  
 Vendler, Helen. Our Secret Discipline: Yeats and Lyric Form. Harvard, 2007. PR5907 .V37 2007  
 Yeats, W. B. Essays and Introductions. Macmillan, 1961. PR5900 A5 1961

**Electronic Resources:** (access through Blais)

Terence Brown, The Life of W. B. Yeats: A Critical Biography. Blackwell, 2000.

**Honnold Special Collections** (Library Use Only):

Yeats, W. B. A Vision. Macmillan, 1962. PR5904 .V5 1962