

Songwriting/Music Business

Lyric Writing in Ireland ~ James Elliott

LD (Lower Division 100-200)/UD (Upper Division 300-400)

3 credit hours

The class will be patterned loosely after SNG 3120, Lyric Writing, that I teach at Belmont University. This will be a hands on course with students writing several lyrics before, during, and after their time in Ireland. We will briefly explore the songwriting traditions in Ireland with a more focused look at contemporary singer/songwriters. The class will also provide a look at the business side of songwriting in Ireland with a field trip to IMRO, Irish Musical Rights Organization.

Can the course be taken to fulfill major and minor requirements? YES

Can the course be taken to fulfill general elective credits? NO

Are there prerequisites for this course?

SNG 2110, SNG 2120. I will considering waiving these on an individual basis.

Assessment Methods:

Below is the grading information for this course I used in 2012. I plan to follow this same schedule as it seemed to work well.

Having the students do multiple writing assignments before departure was a good means of preparing them for the class in Ireland.

GRADING:

Pre-D Pre-Departure Reading/Film Assignments: 5 @ 40 points each, 200 points

Pre-D Pre-Departure Lyric Analysis and Critique: 2 @ 50 points each, 100 points

Lyric Lyric Writing Journal (while in Ireland), 200 points

Writ Written Narrative: (while in Ireland) 2 @ 50 points each, 100 points

Lyric Lyrics: (4 written in Ireland, 1 pre-departure) 5 @ 40 points each, 200 points

Prof Professionalism and Participation, 100 points

Post Ireland Retrospective and Lyric – due August by 5:00 pm CST, 100 points

A: 900-1000

B. 800-899

C. 700-799

D. 600-699

F. 0-599

All pre-departure assignments are to be sent to Professor Elliott by 5:00 pm CST on given dates: james.elliott@belmont.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Popular Lyric Writing 10 Steps to Effective Storytelling by Andrea Stople, Berklee Press, ISBN 13: 978-0-87639-087-0

The Singer And The Song Sixty Irish Songwriters and their Favorite Songs by Audrey Healy, Hodder Headline Ireland, ISBN 978-0-340-92408-2

Available from amazon.com or www.alibris.co.uk

REQUIRED VIEWING:

The Commitments, 20th Century Fox

Once, 20th Century Fox

Michael Collins, Warner Home Video

The Wind That Shakes the Barley, IFC Films

Choose one music film and one historic film to watch. These films can be rented from amazon.com or netflix

OPTIONAL TEXT:

How The Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill, Anchor Books, ISBN 0-385-41849-3

For Belmont Songwriting majors taking this class for the required SNG 3120 Lyric Writing course, there will be additional writing assignments including narratives and lyrics written in Ireland and possible upon returning home.