

Spring term in Ireland 2012: travel log

Week One: April 23-29

- Monday 4/23: first class on Synge; walking tour of Dingle Town
- Tuesday, 4/24: archaeology lecture by Isabella Bennet, followed by Dingle Peninsula tour: ogham stones at *Colaiste Ide*; Ventry Harbor; ring fort and beehive huts; Dun Beg promontory fort; Slea Head; the Blasket Sound; Dunquin Church (Tomas O'Criochan buried there); Ballyferriter; Reask Monastic site; Gallarus Oratory; Kilmalkedar Church.
- Wednesday, 4/25: second class on Synge; lecture on Irish language and literature by Monsignor Padraig O'Fionnachta; first Irish language class by Donnchu
Traditional Irish singing night in McCarthy's pub
- Thursday, 4/26: lecture on Irish anthropology and history; first class on Irish music with Aoife Ghrainbheil
- Friday, 4/27: Killarney trip: Ross Castle; Muckross House; Muckross Farms; Muckross Abbey.

Week Two: April 30-May 6

- Monday 4/30: first class on Yeats and Gregory; class with Brother Sean Ahern on Irish spirituality and theology
- Tuesday 5/1: Theology tour with Brother Sean: St. John the Baptist Holy Well; Minard Castle and Minard Head; Graigue standing stone; Thomas Ashe birthplace; Slea Head; Dunquin; Blasket Island Interpretive Centre; schoolhouse from the film *Ryan's Daughter*; holy well of St. Gobnait with sculpted head; Cusisin an Chnosaigh (the cliffs—Sean's "favorite place in the world").
- Wednesday 5/2: second class on Yeats and Gregory; second Irish language class.
- Thursday 5/3: driving tour through North Kerry to Galway: Killelton Famine Village; Ardfert Cathedral; Listowel Writer's Centre; St. Brandon's Cathedral in Loughrea
- Friday 5/4: Yeats and Gregory tour: Kiltartan Cross Churchyard ("An Irish Airman Foresees His Death"); Kiltartan Gregory Museum; Coole Park, including Coole Lake, The Seven Woods of Coole, and the Visitor's Centre; Thoor Ballylee; cookout at Peter Burke's home in Kinvara; night in Kinvara.
- Saturday 5/5: return trip to Dingle via The Burren, the Cliffs of Moher, and lunch in Ennis.
- Sunday 5/6: *Faile na Bealtaine* parade

Week Three: May 7-13

- Monday 5/7: Irish literature class: 3-hour seminar on the Blasket Island writers
- Tuesday 5/8: Mount Brandon climb
- Wednesday 5/9: Danny Sheehy, Irish poet, lectures on the Blasket Island culture and writers.
- Thursday 5/10: second Irish music class; third Irish language class. To Tralee: Siamsa Tire performance of *Oileann*
- Friday 5/11: surfing and horseback riding
- Saturday 5/12: trip to the Skellig Islands
- Sunday 5/13: free day

Week Four: May 14-19

- Monday 5/14: free day (horseback riding)
- Tuesday 5/15: 2-hour class on Irish poetry (Yeats and Heaney)
- Wednesday 5/16: trip to the Great Blasket Island
- Thursday 5/17: third Irish music class; fourth Irish language class; final Irish poetry class (presentations on Eavan Boland). Farewell dinner.
- Friday 5/18: activities, final group dinner.