Two Required Courses:

Irish Life and Cultures

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the key features of Irish culture and society and the key currents underpinning social change in Ireland in the 21st Century. Ireland, as a society, has experienced both incremental and accelerated social change in the latter half of the twentieth century. The former is characterized by the struggles that emerged between the forces of tradition and the forces of modernity whereas the latter emanates from radical economic change. In order to understand change we must first understand what has gone before. Thus the course begins with a profile of Irish society and a historical overview of its core features in the latter half of the 20th century. It then moves on to examine continuity and change in some of the key categories of Irish society such as religion, culture, economy and politics via their two step encounter with modernity.

College Writing

College Writing develops writing skills by teaching students the process and protocols associated with producing quality, college-level essays. The course also aims to foster a degree of literacy around an issue of significant public debate. Students work on four “projects” in response to texts on a theme. These projects are collated into a portfolio of work that includes drafts and finished essays, shorter assigned writing assignments, completed Homework (HW) assignments, peer reviews and self-reflections.
Select Three Courses from Elective List:

**War and Peace in the 20th Century**

This course offers a broad overview of the dominant themes and major events in European and international history from the First World War to the end of the Cold War. Special prominence is given to major ideological forces that have shaped political, social, and economic developments.

**Introduction to Literature: Poetry and Fiction**

This module offers an introduction to the formal analysis and contextual study of literature through a close examination of a small number of poetic and fictional texts. Throughout the module the focus will be on the development of skills of practical criticism and close reading, on understanding the relation between text and context, and on encouraging use of secondary reading. The course aims include:
1. To introduce some of the concepts, methods and language used in the academic study of literature.
2. To explore a number of literary texts in terms of their formal elements and contexts.
3. To encourage wide and exploratory reading and to foster effective use of secondary reading.

**Psychological Foundations**

This module introduces the learner to psychology and related fields of study. It distinguishes the scientific discipline of psychology from popular psychology and highlights the importance of research, statistics and ethics. The module presents an historical overview focusing on famous figures and landmark studies and highlights for the learner recurring issues in psychology which will resurface throughout their degree. Learners will be encouraged to reflect on their own thoughts and biases to develop greater critical thinking.

**Ireland’s Media**

Ireland’s Media aims to encourage and develop the comprehension of the media industries in Ireland. The module is an introduction to the political, economic, and regulatory environments of the Irish press, broadcast and online journalism. Surveying the industry in a period of rapid economic and technological change, students will examine the main trends in journalistic media. It will also assess the challenges and future of the industry in the 21st Century.
Event Planning and Operations

This module will guide students through all aspects of event planning and operations from concept development, to budgeting, marketing, sponsorships, logistics and managing and coordinating memorable and successful events. The module will explore issues and challenges relevant to a range of situations and give students a clear roadmap for the creation and execution of special events in a professional manner.

Maths and Statistics for Business

This module provides an introduction to the concepts and techniques within mathematics and statistics that are relevant to the modern business environment. Learners will study different data collection methods and sampling techniques, along with appropriate methods for summarizing and presenting data. The module introduces financial topics including compounding and net present value; probability concepts such as the binomial and normal distribution; and basic applications of differential calculus in business settings.

Introduction to Drama and Theatre

This module introduces the study of drama and theatre through a series of activities including structural analysis and close reading of plays, thinking about genre and context, rehearsed scene readings, and reviewing a play in performance.

Introduction to Sociology

This module introduces the learner to the discipline of sociology. It will introduce essential concepts such as norms and values as well as critical sociological topics such as identity, gender, class. Learners will gain an understanding of key sociological perspectives and learn to relate these to relevant social problems. Learners will also become familiar with the historical development of sociological thought and will gain an understanding of the application of such theory in the modern world.
One Required Course:

**Sustainability: People, Place, and Process**

The concept of sustainability and its relationship to people and communities, the management and conservation of natural resources, land and food systems, and the built environment. Topics address local and global contexts.

Select Four Courses from Elective List:

**Introduction to Indigenous Studies**

Provides students with an overview of the discipline of Indigenous Studies including the history, cultures, and experiences of Indigenous people.

**Popular Music and Visual Culture**

A survey of changing attitudes towards class, ethnicity, gender, and ideology as reflected in folk, blues, jazz, rock and hip-hop music and their accompanying visual cultures from the early 20th Century to the early 21st Century.

**Media and Popular Cultures in Global Context**

Introduction to media and cultural studies in a global context, specifically the critical analysis of cultural texts, cultural industries, and media audiences.

**Introduction to Philosophy**

Introduction to outstanding philosophers and their systems. Ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, and philosophy of religion.

**Introduction to Sociology**

Studies how society influences human behavior. How is society organized and structured? How does it affect the way we think and act? What is the relationship between individuals and society? What is our social nature? Why is there inequality in the world?
Global Contemporary Art

The global contemporary art scene with an emphasis on strategies for understanding the complexity of art production from 1985 to the present.

Introduction to Writing Fiction and Drama

Introduction to composition and experimentation in the genres of fiction and drama. Students will develop a working knowledge of modern aesthetics in fiction and drama as well as an objective appreciation of their own “voice” in the context of those aesthetics.

Introduction to Digital Media

Introduces digital media in contemporary art practice through photography, computer imaging, video, and other emerging digital technologies.

Introduction to Film

Basic aesthetic, economic, sociological, and technological aspects of film.

World History from First to Second World War

Study of the emergence of the contemporary world from the origins of World War I to the aftermath of World War II.

Government of Canada

The Canadian state presents a unique opportunity to explore politics within one of the world’s oldest constitutional democracies. Politics in Canada deals with the basic nature of what Canada is, who the people are, and the type of society that the country creates. The State, Nationalism and Regionalism, Foreign Affairs, Elections, and Political Parties are some of the topics covered.
2018 iCHS London Academic Classes

One Required Course:

British Life and Cultures

This multidisciplinary course serves as the anchor of the study programme in London, offering students an opportunity to place what they are learning in their other courses into a larger, contemporary context. It also enables students to appreciate more of what they observe during their stay in Britain in regard to the underlying history, themes, and institutions of the UK. The course provides a comprehensive examination of British life and multiculturalism past, present, and future. Students learn what makes Britain a nation via a range of topics on politics and monarchy, media and arts, and society.

Select Four Courses from Elective List:

Photojournalism: London Through the Lens

The course is designed to familiarize students with skills combining photographic composition and camera operation with conceptual ideas, especially those of narrative photography. Students learn to blend elements of photojournalism and aesthetic photography to challenge their creative abilities whilst creating a unique portfolio exhibiting their new-found knowledge and understanding of London as a global city. How can your experience of a culture be reflected in the way you capture it in a photograph? How might you utilise images to narrate your experience during your stay in London? How can developing an appreciation of photography parallel a greater understanding of London as a global city? This course is intended for students with an interest in the history, theory, and practice of photography (as well as basic camera skills). Central to the course is the exhibition of student work at the end of the term to showcase their journey from new arrivals to Londoners.
Understanding Civilizations: Islam and the West

This course focuses on the historical, political, and religious relationships between ‘Islam’ and the ‘West’. Islam has for centuries been Europe’s neighbour and cultural contestant with a history of conflict and co-existence. Since September 11, 2001 there has been increasing talk of a ‘clash of civilisations’, but globalisation has also created an interdependency of faiths that requires greater co-operation, understanding, and dialogue. A recurrent theme of this course is whether it is possible to separate the world into monolithic entities called ‘Islam’ and the ‘West’. Why is one defined in terms of religion and the other a geopolitical designation? Further, we are increasingly witnessing ‘Islam in the West’. Muslims are not confined to the Middle East but have spread in large numbers to Europe and the United States and there have been Islamic communities living in the Balkans and in parts of southern Europe for centuries. This course is not designed to find out who is right or who is wrong between Islam and the West. Rather, the task is to deconstruct commonly assumed ideas about the other and to look at the historical development within the specific context of abstract ideas like secularity, religiosity, gender, human rights, freedom, and many more.

Music in 20th Century Britain

This course examines a wide range of important musical styles in twentieth century Britain in diverse settings: the national institutions of British classical music; the subcultures that emerged after the Second World War, such as Teddy Boys, Rockers and Mods, and the “Do It Yourself” culture of all-night dance music parties. The stylistic traits of different artists and genres (the forms, lyrics, instrumentation etc.) are examined as well as the cultural, political, and economic context in which each was created. This course develops student knowledge of a range of musical styles and periods within 20th century Britain and an analytical understanding of music in its social context. It also looks at the function of scholarship on music.

Modern and Contemporary Fine Art in London

This course traces the development of Modern (1800-1970) and Contemporary Art (1970 to today). Through a series of in class sessions and visit to Museums and Galleries in London, students are introduced to a variety of art forms and media as they consider the socio-historical events that brought art to implement new media such as photography, film and installation, to the more traditional painting and sculpture. Following a loose chronological order, the course traces the development of the main artistic movements and styles from the revolutionary paintings by Turner through to rise of Realism, Impressionism, and the radical approaches to reality provided by Cubism, Surrealism and Abstract Art. The latter part of the course looks more in depth look at the fragmentation of styles and emergence of new media that have thus far characterised the international, contemporary art scene.
Contemporary British Theatre

This course uses current London productions to introduce elements of theatre production including place, space, audience and actors, and directorial interpretation. Topics discussed include the structure of the theatre sector in the UK; historical contexts and movements; political and ethical questions (e.g. the issue of public subsidy for the arts); and core principles of dramatic writing. The course discusses important writers and, where appropriate, the wider movements of which they are a part. It also discusses plays visited during the course and some fundamental aspects of dramaturgy. This is complemented by a closer scrutiny of texts seen as representative of British theatre’s journey towards its contemporary condition. Students develop an ability to write critical prose and to differentiate between the author’s contribution to the experience of theatre and that of directors and actors as well as understanding the contribution of an audience to a performance.

British History: The Making of Modern Britain

During the nineteenth century, Britain emerged as the world's premier imperial, commercial, and maritime superpower. In the twentieth century, Britain transformed into an important – but secondary – nation state in a post-industrial, post-Cold War world. It experienced the transformative upheavals of post-industrial revolution, two devastating world wars, and the loss of empire, yet it re-emerged as an important part of the European Union and with a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society that is a nodal point in the global economic order. This course introduces students to the main events, trends, themes, and debates in British history during these years. This course provides an overview of the development of British society since the nationalisation of the East India Company, concentrating on a series of key themes including the consequences of industrialisation, New Imperialism, and social and political reform. Particular focus includes the impact of Total War on modern society and the development of the post-WWII Welfare State. During the course, students become aware of the multi-sided and contested nature of Britain’s past and how debates about British history relate to contemporary cultural and political discourse.
Environmental Science: Our Role in Today’s World

Sustainability is the integrating theme of this current and thought-provoking course that provides the basic scientific tools for understanding and thinking critically about the environment, inspiring students to take positive approaches toward finding and implementing useful environmental solutions in their own lives and careers. This course offers a broad overview of physical, chemical, biological, and geological aspects associated with environmental science. Students are introduced to natural processes and interactions in the atmosphere, ocean, and on land. There is a focus on biogeochemical cycling of elements as well as changes of these natural cycles with time and recent anthropogenic effects. Topics include population dynamics, climate change topics (ozone depletion, greenhouse effect), ecosystem interactions, etc.

Media in Britain

This course offers a broad-based introduction to mass media as they have developed in Britain during the past 75 years. Students study the development and the content of British mass media and how they have impacted the interconnected world wide web of cinema, print, broadcasting, and social media that is now a part of our daily lives. The course surveys particular British traditions and practices that have determined broadcasting (television and radio), the press (national newspapers and magazines), advertising, cinema, and convergent digital media via the Internet. This course also explores the varied relationships between theory and practice in the mass media in Britain.

The Political Economy of the EU: Brexit and Beyond

This course provides a comprehensive examination of the European economy and the processes of European economic integration as well as a critical analysis of EU policies in their broader political and economic context. The course develops student understanding of EU developments such as the Single Market and Economic and Monetary Union (including the Euro). Furthermore, the course covers unifying EU policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy, industrial and competition policies, and regional and social policies and their impacts on global economic development as well as an examination of the EU’s ‘social market economy.’

British Music Industry

The course examines the structure and methodologies of the music industry and business in diverse settings: the origins of the music industry; different areas of the industry including record labels and its associates; artistry and agency; music consumption, distribution and promotion/marketing; and, creativity and legal issues in music. The course will also discuss on how the evolving music industry has had an impact on business and society in Britain (and Europe).