**Literature 501: The Christian Imagination in Prominent Continental and Irish Writers**

*Professor Sharon Hickson*

**St. Columcille Institute 2022 Syllabus**

**Objective**: To recognize the role that great literature plays in the New Evangelization. By seeking always the Truth as it is grounded in Reality, the best literary works present the Light of Christ and the Hope of Salvation to a benighted world. This brief survey will focus on the Christian perspective of man’s struggle throughout history to exercise his free will as he encounters both the reality of evil and the force of God’s Love and Mercy. Special emphasis on Irish writers will reveal the Truth of the redeeming nature of suffering, especially when leavened by the Faith.

**Required Reading:** Various short stories and a few poems by Continental and Irish writers, conveyed via internet.

**Requirements:** The grade for this class will be determined by class participation and a take-home final examination. Students must complete all assigned reading.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Assigned Reading** |  |
| *Week One*  |
| JUL 25 | Sunrise on the Veld | Doris Lessing |
| JUL 26 | The Young King | Oscar Wilde |
| JUL 27 | Bishop Quinn and Lucifer | Taylor Caldwell |
| JUL 28 | The Hint of an Explanation | Graham Greene |
| JUL 29 | The Dead | James Joyce |
| *Week Two* |
| AUG 1 | The Judgment of the Sea | Gertrude von LeFort |
| AUG 2 | Matryona’s House | Alexander Solzhenitsyn |
| AUG 3 | The Father | Caryll Houselander |
| AUG 4 | The Dead | James Joyce |
| AUG 5 | Civil War; The Sniper; Easter 1916 | Liam O’Flaherty; Liam O’Flaherty; W.B. Yeats |
| *Week Three* |
| AUG 8 | Guest of the Nation | Frank O’Connor |
| AUG 9 | God Made Sunday | Walter Macken |
| AUG 10 | God Made Sunday | Walter Macken |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Optional Evening Discussions (*for fun*)  | The Currach Race; Going into Exile; Spring Sowing; The Fur Coat |
| Optional Evening of Poetry (TBA) | Ethna Carbery | *Please feel free to bring your own favorites!* |
| Cathleen Ni Houlihan & Yeats poems Recessional | W. B Yeats |