

Irish Studies INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

Irish-Americans are largely responsible for establishing Catholic education in the United States and for helping document the American immigrant experience. Their history in peace and justice issues played a large part in the legacy of St. Ambrose.

Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose University offers a minor in Irish Studies that requires at least 15 credit hours of Irish Studies courses.

Program highlights and courses

The Irish Studies Interdisciplinary Minor at St. Ambrose allows students to acquire a richer understanding and appreciation of the Irish, Irish-American and British experiences. The minor offers extensive coursework options in Irish and Irish-American topics such as history, literature, theology, theater, music, and physical education.

While the minor may be especially attractive to students majoring in history, theology, literature or music, it is open to all students regardless of the major area of study. Students in the Irish Studies minor have greater opportunities to use the Lawrence J. McCaffrey Irish Studies Collection housed in the St. Ambrose library, the Timothy Walch Collection of Irish and Catholic Americana, and to participate in the St. Ambrose study abroad program in Carlow, Ireland.

See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Resources and co-curricular activities

The Irish Studies Program regularly sponsors guest lecturers and cultural events. Recently, the program has hosted an Irish “hooley,” the Irish poet Eileen Sheehan, and former Irish Senator Tom Fitzgerald. Irish Studies students also performed a skit entitled “A Tour of Ireland” at the Irish Heritage Day of the Quad Cities.

What can you do with an Irish Studies minor?

Pursuing an Irish Studies Interdisciplinary Minor can prove very useful on several different levels. Ireland’s long, turbulent history can enlighten students about the origins of Western civilization, the effects of colonization, and the transition from a traditional to a modern nation-state. Moreover, Ireland’s rich artistic, musical and literary traditions provide a fruitful avenue for students to learn about Celtic, Scandinavian, Norman, Irish, British, and other European cultures. Additionally, almost 45 million Americans are of Irish descent. Many students and faculty — particularly at a Catholic University such as St. Ambrose — desire to learn more about their Irish heritage.

About the faculty

As an interdisciplinary program, the Irish Studies minor provides students the advantage of learning from top faculty from a variety of departments including Music, Kinesiology, English, Theatre, and Theology.

Mara Adams PhD, Assistant Professor of Theology

AdamsMaraC@sau.edu

Teaches a course on Celtic Spirituality. Prof. Adams received her PhD from the University of Iowa. She has taught at St. Ambrose since 1996.

Contact us

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Visit the Irish Studies web site at
www.sau.edu/irishstudies

For general information about
St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office

563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627

email: admit@sau.edu

www.sau.edu

Patrick Connelly PhD, Professor of English

ConnellyPatrickJ@sau.edu

Teaches an Irish Literature course. Prof. Connelly received his PhD from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 1993.

Ryan Dye PhD, Assistant Professor and Program Director

DyeRyanD@sau.edu

Specializes in Modern Ireland and Britain, Irish Diaspora, and Colonialism and Imperialism. Prof. Dye received his PhD from Northwestern University. He's taught at St. Ambrose since 2000.

Ragene Gwin EdD, Professor of Kinesiology

GwinRageneD@sau.edu

Teaches a course in Irish Social Dance. Prof. Gwin received her EdD at the University of Northern Iowa. She has taught at St. Ambrose since 1990.

Corinne Johnson PhD, Professor of Theatre

JohnsonCorinneS@sau.edu

Teaches the course, Theatre in Ireland. Prof. Johnson received her doctorate from the University of Oregon. She has taught at St. Ambrose since 1989.

Sandra Quinn PhD, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

QuinnSandraA@sau.edu

Teaches the course, Women in Irish Film. Prof. Quinn received her PhD from Arizona State University. She has taught at St. Ambrose since the fall of 2003.

Joan Trapp DMA, Professor of Music

TrappJoanM@sau.edu

Teaches the course, Irish Music in Culture. Prof. Trapp received her DMA from the University of Iowa. She has taught at St. Ambrose since the fall of 1974.