The Plays of Brian Friel & Modern Irish History  
LAHIPF-16S1  
Spring 2016  

Mondays, 6-8:30PM  
Gleacher Center  

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Course Description:  

At the time of his death in October 2015 Brian Friel was considered by some critics the greatest living playwright in the Anglophone world. The Northern-Irish Friel's work throughout his career engaged with contested visions of the Irish past and the effect of these visions on contemporary Ireland. In this course we will read Irish history through Friel's plays, from Philadelphia, Here I Come! (1964) through Freedom of the City (1973), Translations (1980), and Making History (1988) to his later Ballybeg plays including Dancing at Lughnasa (1990).  

Required Books:  

1. Friel, Selected Plays (CUA Press, 1986)  
2. Friel, Plays 2 (Faber, 1999)  
3. Friel, Plays 3 (Faber, 2014)  

Reading Schedule:  

28 March  Philadelphia, Here I Come! (1964)  
4 April  The Freedom of the City (1973)  
11 April  Aristocrats (1979)  
18 April  Translations (1980)  
25 April  Making History (1988)  
2 May  Dancing at Lughnasa (1990)  
9 May  Three Plays After (2001-2)  
16 May  The Home Place (2005)