COURSE DESCRIPTION: Yeats, MacNeice, and Heaney are the three most important Irish poets of the last hundred years, and their impact extends well beyond Ireland. Yeats and Heaney -- both Nobel Prize winners -- are more widely read than MacNeice, but the latter’s reputation has been building in recent years. Working through their major poems and critical writings, students will gain mastery of three key figures while also becoming familiar with three important moments in the history of modern poetry and culture: the early 20th-century era dominated by Yeats; the mid-century period in which MacNeice was active; and the contemporary era in which Heaney became a prominent figure.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

MacNeice, *Collected Poems* (Wake Forest, 2013)