In the spring of 2015, Professor Marc Conner of the English Department will lead for the seventh time the Spring Term in Ireland Program. The program is a four-week term, set entirely in the West of Ireland, focusing on the literature, landscape, and culture of Ireland.

“The West of Ireland”~ We spend four weeks in the storied and rugged southwest of Ireland, based in Dingle, County Kerry. From here we visit and study the dramatic Irish landscape of the Dingle Peninsula, the Blasket Islands, and the Ring of Kerry; prehistoric burial tombs and stone forts; Celtic and early Christian sites; the great medieval monasteries; Norman and Elizabethan castles; and such lovely Irish towns as Killarney, Dingle, and Galway. We travel throughout the west of Ireland, focusing on sites associated with the great 20th-century Irish writers, such as Yeats’s tower of Thoor Ballylee, Lady Gregory’s estate of Coole Park, and the Aran Islands so beloved of J.M. Synge. We read a range of Irish literature, from medieval poetry and mythic saga to the great achievements of the Irish Revival, such as the poetry of Yeats and the plays of Synge, and also work from more recent Irish writers such as Heaney and O’Brien. Students write two interpretive essays, several “site readings,” and a travel journal/experiential web log of their travels. 4 credits in English at the 300 level / English 388. (Late British distribution)

Winter Term Preparation Course: “English 384: Ireland in Literature, Film, and History.” ~ All students participating in the Spring Program will also take this winter term 300-level course. In this class, we will read a range of Irish literature to gain a strong background in the Irish writers we will study in Ireland. We will also study several works of Irish history and culture, and will view a number of Irish films, along with projects in Irish geography, politics, art, and music. The goal of this course will be to prepare students as thoroughly as possible for the 4-week Ireland experience. The Winter term course is a required part of the Spring Program. 3 credits in English at the 300 level / English 384. (Late British distribution) (The entire Ireland program results in 7 credits at the 300-level in English, all Late British distribution.)

Prerequisites: at least 1 course in English at the 200-level or above. Non-majors are very welcome. For more information, contact Professor Conner at connerm@wlu.edu and view: http://ireland.wlu.edu.