

**Irish History and Culture**  
**The evolution of the Irish nation**  
**CAPA DUBLIN PROGRAM**

**Lecturer: Tommy Graham**

**Course description**

This course provides an overview of Irish history from pre-history to the early 21st. Through a combination of lectures and field trips, students explore how the 'Irish Question' (up to and including the recent troubles and peace process in the North, and the collapse of the 'Celtic Tiger' economy in the South) has found artistic expression in film, theatre, visual arts, sport, music, and humor. The use of evidence in the construction of the distinct but overlapping categories of history, memory, commemoration, and propaganda is also considered.

**Course objectives**

- 1 To provide a basic narrative of Irish history over the past two centuries.
- 2 To provide more detailed analysis of key turning points in Irish history: the Great Famine; the Irish Revolution 1916-23; partition; the outbreak of the troubles in August 1969; the emergence of the 'Celtic Tiger' in the 1990s.
- 3 To develop a facility in weighing up and using evidence (documentary, visual, folklore, artistic, etc.) in constructing an argument (essays/assignments).
- 4 To use a variety of artistic forms (film, drama, documentary, sport, etc.) to provide insights into Ireland's historical and political development and vice versa.
- 5 To encourage students to bring their own experiences to bear in arriving at an understanding of contemporary Irish society.

**Learning Outcomes:**

(1) *Intellectual skills:* By the end of the course students should be able to detail chronologically the main developments in Ireland's history from the coming of the Anglo-Normans to the modern era.

(2) *Personal and Transferable Skills:* By the end of the course, students should have: enhanced their skills in written and verbal communications, through assignment and discussion; enhanced their teamwork skills, through collaboration with other students in group work, on-site visits, walking tours etc.; enhanced their ability to learn independently, through preparation for assignment; and enhanced their analytical skills,

(3) *Attitudinal Skills:* This course is intended to enhance appreciation and awareness of the complexities of Irish national identity and of the patterns of political dynamic in the relationship between colony and empire.

**Course textbooks**

Sean Duffy (ed.), *Atlas of Irish History*, Gill & Macmillan, 1997, ISBN 9780028620114.

Peter Gray, *The Irish Famine*, Thames & Hudson, 1999, ISBN 9780500300572;

Charles Townshend, *Ireland: the 20th century*, Arnold, 1998, ISBN 9780340663356.

S.J. Connolly, *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*, Oxford University Press, 1998, ISBN 9780198662402.

David McKittrick, Seamus Kelters, Brian Feeney & Chris Thornton (eds), *Lost Lives: the story of the men, women and children who died as a result of the Northern Ireland troubles*, Mainstream Publishing, 1999, ISBN 9781840182279.

**Grading and assessment**

2 Tutorials/Assignments [50%]

Based on tutorial discussions students will be expected to produce within the following week a c. 2,000-word essay. Each assignment will account for 25% of students' overall grade.

#### Field Trips [40%]

Students will be expected to write a c. 500-word report noting the salient points and their own general impressions.

#### Attendance/Participation [10%]

Marks will be deducted for any absences.

**To ensure transparency & traceability all assignments, field trip reports & medical certs in lieu of absence must be sent by e-mail attachment to editor@historyireland.com**

#### Teaching style

Teaching will take the form of lectures, tutorials, field trips and tours with a particular emphasis on participation and interaction.

### Indicative Course Content

#### Week 1

Historical walking tour of Dublin. General narrative & orientation. (Meet @ Trinity College front gate, College Green @ 10am)

#### Week 2

##### *Pre-historic Ireland*

Lecture followed by a two-hour guided visit to the National Museum, Kildare Street, focusing on Bronze Age & Iron Age material.

Texts: Duffy, Part I, pp.10-15; look up the following in Connolly—mesolithic, neolithic, metalwork, Iron Age, Celts.

#### Week 3

##### *Christian & Vikings*

Lecture followed by a two-hour guided visit to the Book of Kells @ Trinity College. (€9)

Texts: Duffy, Part I, pp.16-31; Connolly—Christianization, (St) Patrick, Kells, Book of, Vikings, Brian Bóruma (Boru), Clontarf, battle of.

#### Week 4

##### *The medieval English conquest & its decline*

Lecture, followed by a visit to Dublin Castle (€5.50).

Texts: Duffy, Part II, pp.32-49; Connolly—church in medieval Ireland, Normans, Strongbow, Henry II, Gaelic Ireland, Gaelicization, Gaelic recovery, Black Death, Kildare (4 entries),

#### Week 5

##### *The second conquest of Ireland, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries*

Lecture followed by tutorial on the 1641 Depositions.

**1<sup>st</sup> assignment:** *What are the Depositions? Why were they compiled? What do they tell us? (Each student will work from a different sample.) Are they a useful source or mere propaganda?*

Texts: Duffy, Part III, pp.50-69; Connolly—surrender and regrant, Reformation, O'Neill, Hugh, plantation, Ulster plantation, rising of 1641, Confederate War, Confederate Catholics of Ireland, depositions, Temple, Sir John; online *History Ireland* articles (registration necessary to access)

<http://1641.tcd.ie>

Knowledge of this web site is essential for this assignment

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/1641-depositions.php>

Click on 'Ownership by Religion'

Consult as many of the following *History Ireland* articles as you can:

<http://www.historyireland.com/1641-rebellion/the-1641-depositions-a-source-for-social-and-cultural-history/>

<http://www.historyireland.com/early-modern-history-1500-1700/the-most-controversial-documents-in-irish-history/>

<http://www.historyireland.com/early-modern-history-1500-1700/dodgy-dossiers-hearsay-and-the-1641-depositions/>

<http://www.historyireland.com/early-modern-history-1500-1700/anatomy-of-plantation-the-1641-depositions/>

<http://www.historyireland.com/early-modern-history-1500-1700/the-down-survey-of-ireland-project/>

<http://www.historyireland.com/1641-rebellion/the-1641-depositions/>

## **Week 6**

### ***The United Irishmen and Robert Emmet***

Lecture followed by a tour of 1798 and 1803 Dublin historical sites.

Texts: Duffy, Part IV, pp.70-83; Connolly—Williamite War, Protestant ascendancy, penal laws, Presbyterianism, American Revolution, Grattan, Henry, Grattan's parliament, Volunteers, French Revolution, United Irishmen, Tone, Theobald Wolfe, Catholic Committee, Convention & emancipation, republicanism, Emmet, Robert.

Assignment week

## **Week 7** (1<sup>st</sup> assignment due)

### ***The Famine, religion, sex & marriage***

Lecture followed by a visit to EPIC IRELAND, Custom House Quay. (€12)

Texts: Duffy, Part IV, pp.84-103; Gray, entire; Connolly—diet, potatoes, famine, Great Famine, workhouse, farming, field systems, population, fishing, emigration, marriage, illegitimacy.

## **Week 8**

### ***Constitutional & physical force nationalism***

Lecture followed by a tour of Glasnevin Cemetery (inc. the graves of Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins, Éamonn de Valera, etc.). (€8)

Texts: Duffy, Part V, pp.104-109; Townshend, chaps 1, 2, & 3, pp.1-67; Connolly—nationalism, home rule, Parnell, Land League, Gladstone, Fenians, Irish Republican Brotherhood, ballot, franchise, Cullen (Paul), ultramontanism, Land Acts, Land War, Local Government Act, Gaelic Athletic Association, hurling, Gaelic League.

## **Week 10**

### ***1916, The Easter Rising***

Lecture followed by visit to *Soldiers & Chiefs: the Irish at war* & the 1916 Rising exhibition @ the National Museum, Collins Barracks (inc. visit to the armoury).

Texts: Duffy, Part V, pp.112-113; Townshend, chap 5, pp.68-86; Connolly—Dublin lockout, Larkin (James), rising of 1916, First World War, Pearse (Patrick), Connolly (James), Irish Citizen Army, Sinn Féin, Dáil Éireann.

## **Week 9**

### ***The War of Independence and the Civil War***

Lecture, followed by viewing of Ken Loach's *The Wind That Shakes The Barley*, followed by a tutorial on the film.

**2<sup>nd</sup> assignment:** Write a review of the film. What were the views offered by the film's characters for and against the 1921 Treaty? Were they fairly represented?

Texts: Duffy, Part V, pp.114-115; Townshend, chaps 6 & 7, pp.87-131; Connolly—Anglo-Irish War, Royal Irish Constabulary, Auxiliaries, Black and Tans, Irish Volunteers, Irish Republican Army, Provisional Government, Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera, Dáil courts, Anglo-Irish treaty, oath of allegiance, partition, Irish Civil War.

## **Week 11**

### ***The origin of the Orange State & its demise***

Day trip to Belfast (background lecture on the coach + tour of loyalist & republican murals + visit to the Titanic Centre). (€25 not including lunch)

Texts: Duffy, Part V, pp.110-1, 122-3, 128-9; Townshend, chapters 10 & 11, pp.178-234; *Lost Lives*, pp 1473-1501, + selected entries; Connolly—United Irishmen, unionism, Act of Union, Belfast, Orange Order, flax, linen, Ulster Unionist Party, Ulster Unionist Council, manufacturing industry, Harland and Wolff, Ulster Volunteer Force (1<sup>st</sup> para), Carson (Edward), Ulster Special Constabulary, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland, Special Powers Act, Craig (James), Brooke (Sir Basil), border campaign, civil rights movement, People's Democracy. Northern Ireland conflict, O'Neill (Terence), Irish Republican Army, arms crisis, Social Democratic and Labour Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Ulster Defence Association, Ulster Volunteer Force (2<sup>nd</sup> para), Ulster Defence Regiment, Ulster Vanguard, Faulkner (Brian), Sunningdale agreement, Ulster Workers' Council, internment, direct rule, Anglo-Irish Agreement, hunger strike.

## **Week 12** (2<sup>nd</sup> assignment due)

### ***Independent Ireland***

Viewing of *The Commitments* (1991).

Texts: Duffy, Part V, pp.116-121, 124-7, 130-131; Townshend, chapters 8, 9 & 11, pp.132-177, 203-234; Connolly—Cumann na nGaedheal, Cosgrave (W.T.), Labour Party, Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, land annuities, economic war, Blueshirts, foreign policy, Second World War, interparty government, McQuaid (John Charles), Mother and Child controversy, abortion, contraception, divorce, class, feminism, European Union, *Bell*, Catholicism, censorship, Christian Brothers.