

Queens College Irish Studies Summer Program at National University of Ireland, Galway
Summer 2009

There will be two courses: one in Music, taught by Tim Collins of NUI Galway, and one in History, taught by Patrick McGough of Queens College, City University of New York.

History 200: Ireland from the Act of Union to the Present

This course is designed for students coming from Queens College, CUNY. It does not presume any prior knowledge of Irish History.

Course Description:

The course surveys the major political, economic, and social developments in Ireland from the Act of Union to the present day. Events highlighted in the early part of the course include the birth of Irish Republicanism and the Orange Order, the Act of Union, Catholic Emancipation, and the causes and consequences of the 1840s Famine. The survey of post Famine Ireland covers the development of modern Nationalism and Unionism with an examination of why Ireland was partitioned along apparently religious lines in the 1920s. An overview of Ireland since Partition concludes with an analysis of the current post Celtic Tiger Republic, and the prospects for continuing peace and devolved government in Northern Ireland.

Format:

Each session will include both lecture and class discussion. Some sessions will include a film documentary. Reading assignments will be given out from week to week.

Requirements:

There will be both a midterm and a final examination. In addition each student will be required to submit two papers on assigned topics. Each student is expected to meet with the Lecturer regularly to discuss progress and address any problems.

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Mid-term	40%
Final	40%

Reading list:

Ó Tuathaigh, Gearóid, *Ireland before the Famine*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972.
Gray, Peter. *The Irish Famine*. New York: H. N. Abrams, 1995.
Townsend, Charles. *Ireland, the Twentieth Century*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998.
Additional readings from: Diarmaid Ferriter, *The Transformation of Ireland*. New York: Overlook Press, 2004; Joe Lee, *Ireland, 1912-1985: politics and society*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1985, and articles in *History Ireland*

Syllabus

Each lecture is for 3 hours (or 2 hours and 50 minutes with a ten minute break). Class meets three times a week for four weeks. The lectures are a total of 42 hours, plus a 90 minute midterm and a three hour final, which is the equivalent of 3 credit hours, or a typical one semester course, in the American system.

Lecture 1—Introduction—How is the course constructed? What is expected from students? Review of 18th century Ireland to 1782.

Lecture 2—From Grattan’s Parliament to the Act of Union. The end of the Penal Era, the birth of Irish Republicanism, the United Irishmen, the Orange Order, the Rising of 1798, and the Act of Union.

Lecture 3—Early 1800s to the 1840a—The Age of Daniel O’Connell—Political, social, and economic effects of the Union. The campaign for Catholic Emancipation—The Repeal Movement and Young Ireland.

Lecture 4—The Famine-The causes and consequences of the “Irish Holocaust”—How the famine is perceived and portrayed in contemporary Ireland

Lecture 5—Aftermath of the Famine—1850s to 1870s. Social, economic and demographic changes. The demand for land reform .The emergence of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the “Fenian Uprising.”

Lecture 6—The Age of Charles Stewart Parnell—1870s to 1890s—from revolutionary to constitutional nationalism. The Land War and the Home Rule movement.

Midterm examination

Lecture 7—Home Rule and “No Surrender”—the Polarization of Ireland—1890s to World War I. The gathering strength of the Home Rule Movement .Why Protestants who predominated in the northeast opposed Home Rule.

Lecture 8—Ireland’s War of Independence—1916 to 1921. How a small group of Irish Republicans turned an unpopular revolt into a viable movement for independence from Britain. The Partition “Solution.”

Lecture 9—From Civil War to the Republic—1920s to 1960s. From Irish Free State to Republic of Ireland—First decades of Independence.

Lecture 10—Northern Ireland 1920s to 1990s—“A Protestant State for a Protestant People”—from partition to the Civil Rights Association—from Civil Rights to the IRA.

Lecture 11—Ireland 1970s to 1990s— emphasis on the The Troubles in Northern

Ireland. Attempts to institute cross community government—involvement of the Republic from the mid 1980s—emergence of the Peace Process. In the Republic, from the “Joining Europe: to the Celtic Tiger economy.

Lecture 12—Ireland since the 1990s—The Northern Ireland Peace Process to the Good Friday Agreement—from the Good Friday Agreement to Saint Andrews—the boom years in the Republic. An examination of Contemporary Ireland—North and South—The prospects for Northern Ireland. Post Celtic-Tiger Ireland—challenges and opportunities. Review of course and preparation for final examination.

Final Examination