

SS117 IRISH HISTORY: Conflict, Identity and the Shaping of Modern Ireland

6 ECTS/3 US Semester Credits

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course offers a survey of Irish history. The initial lecture will set the stage by considering some aspects of the early and medieval periods, but the principal focus will be on the modern centuries, beginning with the Tudor conquest of Ireland. By charting the history of Anglo-Irish relations through major political and military conflicts in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, special attention will be given to the British attempt to assimilate Ireland under the Act of Union from 1801. We will examine the mass political and social campaigns that emerged in the nineteenth century and the rise of the modern ideologies of Irish unionism and nationalism, including the influential Irish-American dimension of the latter which took shape in the decades after the Great Famine (1845-50). Ultimately the course will examine the undoing of the Union between Britain and Ireland in 1921, the nature of the partition agreement which underpinned the constitutional settlement at that time, and how sustained violent conflict in Northern Ireland from the late 1960s forced politicians and political leaders in these islands and beyond to revisit the 'Irish Question'.

The approach taken in this module is thematic. Classes will consist of a mixture of lectures and discussions; and to facilitate a closer treatment of one of the central themes of the course, a class debate will take place, mid-term, in one of the historic buildings in Galway. Choice readings and links to two award-winning documentaries will be made available on the course Blackboard site during term.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Week 1** **Induction period: setting the early modern background**
The end of Gaelic Ireland: the completion of the English conquest in the 1500s
Making Ireland British: plantation and social engineering
- Week 2** **The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries**
From the Cromwellian conquest to the Wars of the Three Kingdoms
The Protestant nation, the Catholic Question and the Act of Union
- Week 3** **Nineteenth-century modernisation**
Class debate, *King's Head*, Galway: conquest and 'war crime'
The Great Famine (1845-50): accelerant of change
Changing the Irish question: Ireland, America and Empire
- Week 4** **The twentieth century**
Easter 1916: 'a terrible beauty is born'
The independent Irish state
Northern Ireland, 1921-68
- Week 5** **Conflict and conciliation**
The Northern Ireland conflict
The 'peace process': an end to Irish history?

History Course: Core Texts

Sean Duffy, *The Concise History of Ireland* (Dublin, 2005). This should be purchased in advance.

Readings tailored to the course will also be uploaded onto Blackboard during the term of the Summer School.

Additional Recommended Reading

T.W. Moody & F.X. Martin, *The Course of Irish History* (Dublin, 2005, though any earlier edition is recommended)

T.W. Moody & F.X. Martin (eds.), *A New History of Ireland, vol. III: Early modern Ireland, 1534-1691* (Oxford, 1976)

Nicholas Canny, *Making Ireland British, 1580-1650* (Oxford, 2003)

Paidrag Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland, 1603-1727* (Essex, 2008)

T.W. Moody & W. E. Vaughan (eds.), *A New History of Ireland, vol. IV: Eighteenth-century Ireland, 1691-1800* (Oxford, 1986, 1999)

Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, *Ireland before the famine, 1798-1848* (Dublin, 1990)

J.J. Lee, *The Modernisation of Irish society, 1848-1918* (Dublin, 1973, 1989)

On-line Viewing

The following is a link to a television history of Ireland, *The Story of Ireland* (series 1-4), jointly produced by the BBC and the Irish national broadcaster, RTÉ. The programme takes a thematic approach to the course of Irish history, and provides a useful screen introduction to accompany this module.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tN0ndWAgA6o>

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITS

1. Attendance at lectures and participation in seminars.
2. One mid-term essay - 1,500 words
3. One final essay – 1,500 words

COURSE PROFESSOR

Laurence Marley, M.A., Ph.D

Laurence Marley holds his doctorate in History from the National University of Ireland, the research for which was supported by both an Irish Research Council Scholarship and the Michael Davitt Fellowship. He lectures in the Department of History at NUI Galway. His current interests in nineteenth and twentieth-century Irish and British history lay particular emphasis on radical movements and social protest; Irish emigration and the diaspora; and Northern Ireland. He is author of *Michael Davitt: Freelance Radical and Frondeur* (Dublin, 2010), and (ed.), *The British Labour Party and Twentieth-Century Ireland* (Manchester, 2016).