

SS121 Irish Society; Stasis and Change in the Ambiguous Republic

6 ECTS/3 US Semester Credits

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Irish Society underwent profound and relatively rapid social changes during the 20th century. In this course we will be using a sociological lens, and the sociological imagination, to examine some of these changes, and their results. As we will see, even planned socio-economic change can have far reaching unplanned social consequences. There are two underlying questions that we will attempt to answer as we move through the course topics: How has Irish society been changed by the economic transformation that was initiated in the 1950s, and what are the main forces shaping Irish society today?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course students will be able to provide a critical analysis of social, economic and political changes that have taken place in contemporary Irish society. They will be have an understanding of the way basic institutions operate within the society; and major social problems facing Irish society today.

REQUIRED READINGS

The basic texts for this course will be Share, Corcoran & Conway (2012) *A Sociology of Ireland* (4th ed if possible), Gill and Macmillan and O'Sullivan, Sara (ed.) 2007. **Contemporary Ireland: A Sociological Map**, UCD. More detailed reading suggestions will accompany each lecture, some of which will be made available to you directly. Those listed below should be considered the core or required readings for each lecture. Lecture notes will also be provided on Blackboard.

Course Outline

- Week 1 *L1: Introduction to Irish Society course*
Topic 1: Changing Economy – Changing Society
- L2: Social and Economic Change in Ireland*
Required Readings: Inglis, Tom. 2008. **Global Ireland: Same Difference**. London: Routledge (chapter 1); Wickham, J. "The end of the European Social Model" www.tcd.ie/ERC/observatorydownloads/Social%20Model.pdf
- L3: Economy, Work and Development*
Required Reading: Share et.al Ch. 3 "The dynamics of Irish development"; O'Sullivan Ch.13 "Globalization, the State and Ireland's Miracle Economy"
- Week 2: **Topic 2: Changing Social Institutions**
- L4: The Changing Church in Contemporary Ireland*
Readings: Share et. al. Ch. 13 "Religion"; O'Sullivan Ch.4 "Individualism and Secularization in Ireland".
- L5: The Changing Irish Family*
Required readings: Share et.al Ch.8 "Gender, Sexuality and the Family" and; and O'Sullivan Ch. 5 Family."
- L6: Education and Schooling in Ireland*
Readings: Share et. al. Ch.7 "Education", O' Sullivan (eds) Ch.6.
- L7: Irish Women and Social Change*
Readings: Share et. al. Ch.9 "Gender, Sexuality and the Family"; O'Sullivan Ch. 15 "Gender and the Workplace", CSO (2011) 'Men and Women in Ireland'
- Week 3 *L8: The Media in Irish Society*

Readings: Share et.al. Ch. 14 “Media”; O’Sullivan Ch.8 “Modern media, Modern Ireland, Same Old Story.”

L9: Sport in Irish Society

Readings: O’Sullivan Ch. 9; Dolan & Connolly (2009) ‘The Civilizing of Hurling in Ireland’ (Blackboard).

S1: Seminar:

Discussion of “Global as Local” Ch. 1 in **Global Ireland** by Tom Inglis
And J.Wickham “The end of the European Social Model?”

L10: Power in Irish Society

Share et.al, Ch 5; O’Sullivan Ch 11.

Week 4

Topic 3: Problems and Processes in Contemporary Irish Society

L11. Education, Poverty and Class Inequality in Ireland

Readings: Share et. al. Ch.7 “Education”, pp.171-177; Gray & O’Carroll (2012) ‘Education and Class-formation in 20th Century Ireland: A Retrospective Qualitative Longitudinal Analysis’ (Blackboard); O’Sullivan Ch. 17 Social Class

L.12: Immigration and Racism in Irish Society

Readings: Share et. al. Ch. 11; Fanning, Bryan. 2012 (2nd ed) *Racism and Social Change in the Republic of Ireland*, Ch2 ‘Racism in Ireland’.

L13: Crime in Irish Society

Readings: Share et. al. Ch. 10 “Crime and Deviance”; O’Sullivan Ch. 7 “Crime, policing and social control”

Crime statistics are available in CSO quarterly reports at www.cso.ie

Publications on crime in Ireland are often made available on the Irish crime council’s website. www.irlgov.ie/crimecouncil

L14: Emotions & Social Change in Ireland

Reading: Heaney (2011) ‘Emotions & Power: Reconciling Conceptual Twins’, *Journal of Political Power*, Volume 4, Issue 2, pp.259-277.

S2: Seminar: The Ambiguity of Social Change

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITS

1. Attendance at lectures and participation in seminars.
2. One essay of 1500 words on a topic of your choice from the course syllabus. Worth 50% of your final mark.
3. 2 written examinations of material covered in the course. Each are 25% of your final mark.

COURSE PROFESSOR

Jonathan G. Heaney, PhD

Jonathan G. Heaney, originally from Kilkee in Co. Clare, is a lecturer in sociology at Queen’s University Belfast. He completed a PhD in the School of Political Science & Sociology, NUI Galway in 2013. His thesis combined both theoretical and empirical research to explore emotions and social change in the Republic of Ireland in the 20th century, and was funded by the Irish Research Council. His research interests include social and sociological theory, the sociology of emotions, power, the sociology and politics of Ireland, political sociology, and narrative/life histories. He is a member and currently the vice-coordinator of the European Sociological Association Research Network on Emotions (RN11), a member of the International Political Science Association’s (IPSA) Research Group on Power (RC36), and the Sociological Association of Ireland. He has published on emotions and power, nationalism, and has a number of articles in preparation. His new project – ‘On the Emotional State’ – explores the various ways in which the nation-state has been directly and indirectly involved in the construction and deconstruction of the emotional life of the polity; the degree to which it reflects (and constructs) the dominant emotional regime(s) and norms; and how these processes change through time. He blogs at Theorytypes, which he founded in 2009, and tweets as @jonathagheaney.