

Modern Ireland

From the Irish Revolution to Brexit

1912-2018

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Course Overview

The course seeks to recreate the excitement, turmoil and difficulties of modern Irish history. It will outline and explain the Irish Revolution (1912-23) that established an independent Ireland and investigate the lasting legacies of that period that can still be felt today. The course will examine numerous aspects of Irish history and culture, including the struggle for independence, the emergence of the Irish Labor movement, the 1916 Easter Rising and the First World War, the War of Independence, partition, the Irish Civil War, the Troubles in the North, and the social, political military, economic and cultural development of Ireland from independence until the present day. Sources from this period will be discussed, including letters and parliamentary debates. In addition, students will engage with Irish culture in the forms of music, poetry and film.

The module will also explore current challenges faced by Ireland, notably by examining the legacies of the conflict in Northern Ireland and the Peace Process culminating in the Good Friday Agreement, and the impact that the border continues to have on Irish life against the backdrop of the recent exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. In sum, the module will assess continuity and change in Ireland over the last hundred years. The module will be taught by the professors of the UCD School of History, the leading center in the world for the study of modern Ireland.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamentals of studying history.
2. Be introduced to the skills used by historians.
3. Critically engage with primary and secondary sources.
4. Be able to contribute to historical debate within the classroom.
5. Understand the importance of critical thinking to the study and writing of history.
6. Interpret contemporary debates from a historically informed perspective.

Course Structure

Teaching on this course will consist of two two-hour lectures per week together, two assessment workshops, and ten hours of tutorials spread across the 6 weeks. Students will also participate in various excursions and cultural activities related to the lecture themes, including visits to Irish museums and libraries, and a film screening. Tutorials will include discussions of historical events and Irish popular culture. We will travel to Northern Ireland to visit relevant historic sites and learn about the history and culture of the region.

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Lecture schedule overview, 26 May to 11 July 2025

Week 1	The making of Irish America Global Ireland: Migration and Immigration
Week 2	Irish nationalism and culture Ireland at war 1914-16
Week 3	1916 Easter Rebellion War of Independence and Civil War
Week 4	The Irish and the military in the 20 th century The Irish Free State to Republic, 1922-1969 Northern Ireland 1920-1969
Week 5	Northern Irish Troubles Ireland 1970s-2016
Week 6	

Exam preparation

Week 7 Exam

Assessment

The module is assessed via three components:

- **Class participation (20%)**
 - The participation grade will be based on attendance at lectures, tutorials and the field trips together with participation in the tutorials.
- **Presentation(30%)**
 - In weeks 2, 3, 4 or 5, the students will complete a 5-8 minute presentation in their tutorial. The topic will be assigned in advance. Students will submit their slides and a two page overview of the presentation, including their list of sources via Canvas after their presentation.
 - The presentation will be based on material covered in class.
- **Exam (50%).**

The 2-hour exam will be on **Tuesday 8 July 2025** in Theatre M Newman.

All students will be given access to the reading material necessary to complete their presentation and exam preparation and will be guided by lecturers and tutors through the process.

Location of classes

Lectures and tutorials for the history classes will take place in the Newman Building.

Lectures will take place in theatres the Newman Building - the exact locations for each days/weeks is outlined in the 'Lectures and Tutorials location' tab.

The School of History administrative office is located in room C110A in the Newman Building.

Coaches for the field trips will depart from the UCD Bus Terminus. It is important that you are there 10 minutes in advance of departure. Information on the day-long trips (Glendalough and Belfast) will be provided on Canvas.

Attendance

Attendance at lectures, tutorials and field trips is mandatory. If you cannot attend a class or field trip due to illness, please alert your tutor and Dr Anastasopoulou immediately.

Class preparation

Please prepare for class by completing the core readings and reading any primary document supplied. Please bring a copy of the core reading and primary document to the relevant tutorial to facilitate discussion. (This can include an electronic copy on your laptop). The readings for each class can be found on Canvas if you click on the relevant lecture or tutorial. You have also been given a copy of the core textbook: Senia Paseta, *Modern Ireland: a very short introduction* (Oxford, 2003). Please bring it to class.

Academic queries:

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