Ireland and the Irish since the Famine

From the Famine to the Celtic Tiger, through democracy, independence, partition, and the Troubles, the history of modern Ireland is rich, tragic, and fascinating. Starting from some of the major historiographical controversies, this paper will introduce students to the evolution of the Irish nation in its two branches, North and South, since the second half of the nineteenth century, in the aftermath of the Famine of 1845-53 until the peacemaking process in Northern Ireland and the development of a more secular and liberal Republic. It will explore the rise of nationalism and unionism in their social context and in relation to other forms of political protest, including the campaign for suffrage, as well as perceptions and challenges over the rights of minority populations. It will examine patterns of resistance and cooperation, ranging from the development of political parties in the age of C.S. Parnell and Edward Carson to violent rural protest, including boycotting, the 'land war' and early terrorism, and government strategies to contain and appease protest. It will explore questions and controversies around state-building, the economic contexts of the 1930s and 1990s that dramatically changed Irish society, the transformative impact of war, and the political thought of politicians and revolutionaries. These subjects will be complemented by thematic areas of enquiry which will encourage students to think across time and space, examining topics such as complexities surrounding war and remembrance, the role of religion in shaping the 'Two Irelands', the evolution of political communication, and the relationship between Ireland, the diaspora, Britain and Europe.

Combining regional, national, and transnational approaches, this Specified Subject offers a unique opportunity to explore long-standing themes and problems, as well as the newest areas of research, in the history of 'John Bull's Other Island'. It will give students a solid understanding of major aspects of modern Irish history whilst allowing them to craft their own path in the syllabus to explore topics and themes of most interest to them. In all cases, students will wrestle with complex ideas, contested narratives and evolving debates to approach both 'old' and 'new' historiographical issues.

Start date October 2019

Lecturers Dr Niamh Gallagher (convener), Professor Richard Bourke, Professor Clair Wills, Professor Brendan Simms, Dr Charles Read, and Mr Fintan O'Toole.
Supervisors and seminar leaders  Dr Niamh Gallagher, Dr Charles Read, Mr Hugh Hanley, Mr Christopher Morash, Ms Aoife O’Leary-McNeice, Ms Bethan Johnson, Ms Jin Jang and Trisha Oakley Kessler.

Examination

- 3 questions to be answered in a 3-hour, undivided paper out of a total number of 18 questions.

Teaching plans:
The paper will be taught through a mixture of survey lectures, guest lectures, seminars and supervisions. Each student will also receive 6 supervisions.

- Michaelmas: 4 x 60-min lectures + 4 x 2-hr seminars
- Lent: 4 x 60-min lectures + 4 x 2-hr seminars
- Easter: 2 x 120-min classes
- 6 supervisions per student in either term (or across terms)
- Total contact hours: 34

Below is a list of lectures, seminars and supervision topics with associated reading lists (NB reading lists are under development). Lectures and seminars will be closely linked to supervision topics. For supervisions, students will be able to choose from more detailed essay questions and to read more closely in the secondary literature.

Lectures (60-mins each)

Michaelmas Term
1. Introduction: contested identities, histories and politics [Dr N. Gallagher]
2. The Irish Famine [Dr C. Read]
3. Land, Irish Nationalism and Unionism [Dr N. Gallagher]
4. The Irish Revolution and political thought [Prof. R. Bourke]

Lent Term
1. Culture and literature from Parnell to the Revival [Prof. C. Wills]
2. Ireland, Britain and Europe [Prof B. Simms]
3. The Northern Irish Troubles [Prof R. Bourke]
4. Politics and the media [Mr F. O’Toole]

Seminars (2hrs each)

Michaelmas Term
1. Politics from above and below [Dr N. Gallagher] [Reading list topics 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 12]
2. The Irish economy from the trade war to the Celtic Tiger [Dr C. Read and Trisha O. Kessler] [Reading list topic 15]
3. Ireland, the Irish and the Empire [Mr C. Morash & Ms A. O’Leary McNeice] [Reading list topic 8]
4. Political thought and the Irish Revolution [Prof. R. Bourke] [Reading list topics 19]

Lent Term
1. Exporting Irishness: diaspora, culture and identity in post-war Britain [Prof. C. Wills] [Reading list topic 9]
2. War, memory and forgetting [Dr N. Gallagher] [Reading list topics 18, 19]
3. Censorship in post-revolutionary Ireland [Mr H. Hanley & Ms B. Johnson] [Reading list topic 14]
4. Politics, society and the media [Mr F. O’Toole] [Reading list topic 16]

Supervision topics
In consultation with supervisors, students will arrange a programme of 6 supervisions from the following topics. Topics will be more specific than in lectures, and will allow students to develop a more detailed and precise understanding of aspects of the period of most interest to them. Students will be required to choose at least one topic from three groups. Note that the examination will not be divided into four sections.

Group A: Key debates in Irish history
1. The Irish Famine: origins, consequences and key debates
2. Nationalism and revisionism in modern Irish history
3. Land and politics
4. Irish Nationalism before the First World War
5. Unionism in Britain, Ireland and beyond, 1840-1940
6. The British state and managing the ‘Other’ Island, 1868-1922

Group B: Beyond ‘national’ frameworks
7. Early terrorism in the nineteenth century: a transnational perspective
8. Ireland and Empire, 1845-1948
9. The Irish in Britain: culture and identity post 1945
10. Religious Minorities: Identity and place in the 26 counties, 1922-1948
11. Ireland, Britain and Europe, 1845-present

Group C: Rethinking politics, economics and society
12. Culture and literature from Parnell to the Revival
13. Women, citizenship and suffrage
14. Censorship in post-revolutionary Ireland, 1922-1939
15. The Irish economy from the trade war to the Celtic Tiger
16. Political communication and the media

Group D: War
17. The First World War in Irish history: key debates
18. War, memory and forgetting
19. Political thought and the Irish Revolution
20. The Northern Irish Troubles and the Peace Process

Reading lists

General


A: Key debates in Irish history

1. The Irish Famine: origins, consequences and key debates

Primary

- J. Mitchel, The last conquest of Ireland (perhaps) [1861]
- C. E. Trevelyan, The Irish Crisis [1848]
- D. M. Evans, The commercial crisis, 1847-1848 [1849]

Secondary

- C. Ó Gráda, Black '47 and beyond: the Great Irish Famine in history, economy and memory (Princeton, 1999).
- Enda Delaney and Breandán Mac Suibhne (eds.), Ireland's Great Famine and Popular Politics (Routledge. 2016)
- Breandán Mac Suibhne, Subjects Lacking Words? The Gray Zone of the Great Famine (Cork University Press, 2017)
L. Cullen, *An economic history of Ireland since 1660* (1972), see relevant section on the Irish famine.


(ii) Emigration


O. MacDonagh, 'The Irish Famine Emigration to the United States', *Perspectives in American History* 10 (1976)


2. Nationalism and revisionism in modern Irish history


• John Regan, ‘Irish Public Histories as a Historical Problem’, *Irish Historical Studies*, vol. xxxvii, no. 146 (November 2010)
• E. F. Biagini and D. Mulhall (eds.), *The Shaping of Modern Ireland* (Dublin, 2016), esp. preface.

3. Land and politics

**Primary**
• John Mitchel, *The Last Conquest of Ireland*, ed. by P. Maume (2005), or view the original online
• Michael Davitt, *The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland, or the Story of the Land League Revolution* (Shannon, Irish University Press, 1970)

**Secondary**
• Timothy Guinnane, *The Vanishing Irish: Households, migration, and the rural economy in Ireland, 1850-1914* (1997)
• Samuel Clark, *Social origins of the Irish land war* (Princeton, 1980)
• P. Bew, *Land and the National Question in Ireland, 1858-82* (1978)
• Donald E. Jordan, Jr., *Land and popular politics in Ireland: County Mayo from the Plantation to the Land War* (Cambridge, 1994)
• F. Campbell, *Land and Revolution: Nationalist Politics in the West of Ireland, 1891-1921* (2005)
• Mulligan, Adrian, “‘By a Thousand Ingenious Feminine Devices”: The Ladies’ Land League and the Development of Irish Nationalism’, *Historical Geography*, vol. 37, 2009, pp. 159-177.
4. Irish Nationalism before the First World War

**Primary**
- Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)

**Secondary**

(i) **Origins and influences**

(ii) **Constitutional and ‘advanced’ nationalism: a transnational perspective**
Dáire Keogh, Albert McDonnell (Eds.), *Cardinal Paul Cullen and His World* (Dublin, 2011), esp. chapters by Gerard Moran, Rory Sweetman


**5. Unionism in Britain, Ireland and beyond, 1840-1940**

**Primary**

- Ulster Solemn League and Covenant and Women’s Declaration (1912)

**Secondary**

- G. Walker, *A history of the Ulster Unionist party* (2004), chapters one to three
6. The British state and managing the ‘Other’ Island, 1868-1922

- J. Loughlin, *The British monarchy and Ireland: 1800 to the present* (2007), chapter 5 ff
- J. S. Ellis, ‘Reconciling the Celt: British national identity, Empire and the 1911 investiture of the Prince of Wales’, *Journal of British Studies*, 37, 4, 1998, pp. 391-418
- D. M. Jackson, *Popular Opposition to Irish Home Rule in Edwardian Britain* (2009)

B: Beyond ‘national’ frameworks

7. Early terrorism in the nineteenth century: a transnational perspective

Primary sources

- Mitchel, John *Jail Journal: Commenced On Board The ‘Shearwater’ Steamer, In Dublin Bay, Continued At Spike Island--On Board The ‘Scourge’ War Steamer--On Board The ‘Dromedary’ Hulk, Bermuda--On Board The ‘Neptune’ Convict Ship--At Pernambuco--At The Cape Of Good Hope (During The Anti-Convict Rebellion)--At Van Diemen’s Land--At Sydney--At Tahiti--At San Francisco--At Greytown--And Concluding At No. 3 Pier, North River, New York. With An Introductory Narrative Of Transactions In Ireland*. Dublin, 1921.
- Webb, Alfred, *Valedictory Address of Mr. Alfred Webb, M.P., President of the Tenth Indian National Congress, Delivered in the Gaiety Theatre, Bombay: The Hon. R.M. Sayani in the Chair, January 17th, 1895*. London, 1895
Secondary

- McGowan, Mark, *The waning of green: Catholics, the Irish, and identity in Toronto 1887-1922*. Montreal, 1999

8. Ireland and the Empire, 1845-1948

(i) The Irish and the Empire: a contested history

- K. Kenny (ed.), *Ireland and the British Empire* (2004), esp. introduction, and chapters 4, 5 and 8

(ii) The Irish episcopal empire

● Daire Keogh, 'Bulwark of the nations': Paul Cullen, the Christian Brothers, and the evangelization of an Irish empire', in Dickson et al, Irish classrooms and British Empire, pp. 80-97.
● Myrtle, Hill, 'Gender, culture and 'the spiritual empire': the Irish Protestant female missionary experience, Women's History Review, XVI (2007), No. 2. pp. 203-26

9. The Irish in Britain: culture and identity post 1945

Primary

● Tom Murphy, A Whistle in the Dark (1961)
● Philip Donnellan, dir. The Irishmen (1964)
● Christus Rex articles

Secondary

● D. MacRaild, The Irish Diaspora in Britain, 1750-1939 (2010)
● M. Moulton, Ireland and the Irish in interwar England (2014)
● E. Delaney, The Irish in Post-War Britain (2007)
● C. Wills, The Best are Leaving: Emigration and Post-War Irish Culture (Cambridge, 2015)
● C. Wills, Lovers and Strangers: An Immigrant History of Post-War Britain (2017)

10. **Religious Minorities: Identity and place in the 26 counties, 1922-1948**

**Primary**

● *Constitution of the Irish Free State, 1922*: Articles 1-17 (fundamental rights)
● Bunreacht na hÉireann, 1937 (Irish Constitution), Articles 1-11 (fundamental rights) and 41-42 (family and education), and 45 (religion)
● 'Credo', a series of articles about minority identity, *The Bell*, 1944
● A. J. Leventhal, 'What it means to be a Jew', *The Bell*, 10:3 (June 1945)

**Secondary**

● Ian d'Alton and Ida Milne, *Protestant and Irish: The minority’s search for place in independent Ireland* (Cork, 2019).
● Katrina Goldstone, 'Harry Kernoff and Leslie Daiken' in Emmet O’Connor and John Cunningham (eds), *Studies in Irish Radical Leadership: Lives on the Left* (Manchester, 2016)
• John H.,Whyte, *Church and State in Modern Ireland, 1923-1979* (Dublin, 1980).

11. **Ireland, Britain and Europe, 1845-present [under development]**

**C: Rethinking politics, economics and society**

12. **Culture and literature from Parnell to the Revival**

**Primary**
- Douglas Hyde, 'The Necessity for De-anglicising Ireland' (1892)
- Patrick Pearse, 'Ghosts'; Speech at the grave of O'Donovan Rossa (1915)
- Yeats, 'Kathleen ni Houlihan' (1902)
- Joyce, 'Ivy Day in the Committee Room', and 'The Dead'. Dubliners (1914)

**Secondary**
- Joep Leerssen, 'Cúchulain in the Post Office: Gaelic Revival, Irish Rising', *Journal of the British Academy*, 4

13. **Women, citizenship and suffrage**

- S. Pašeta, 'Suffrage and Citizenship in Ireland, 1912-1918', *The Kehoe Lecture in Irish History*, 2018
• C. Murphy, 'The religious context of the women's suffrage campaign in Ireland', *Women's History Review*, vol.6, No.4, 1997.
• S. Pašeta, 'Feminist Political Thought and Activism in Revolutionary Ireland, c. 1880–1918', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, November, 2017.
• Louise Ryan, *The Irish Citizen newspaper and the suffrage movement in Ireland* (2018)
• D. Urquhart, “An articulate and definite cry for political freedom’: the ulster suffrage movement’, *History Review*, 11(2), 273-292

14. **Censorship in post-revolutionary Ireland, 1922-1939**

• Carson, Niall, *Rebel by vocation: Seán O'Faolain and the generation of the Bell* (Manchester, 2016).
• Kent, Brad, *The selected essays of Sean O'Faolain* (Montreal, 2016).
• Martin, Peter, *Censorship in the two Irelands, 1922-39* (Dublin, 2006).

15. **The Irish Economy from the trade war to the Celtic Tiger**

• *A. Bielenberg & R. Ryan, An Economic History of Ireland since Independence* (Routledge, 2013)
• *C. Casey, Policy Failures and the Irish economic crisis* (Palgrave, 2018).
16. Political communication and the media

(i) Oratory
- Michael Edwards and Christopher Reid, *Oratory in Action* (Manchester, 2004), introduction
- 'Reverend Ian Paisley: 1926-2014 Channel 4 News', access at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ME45v08fQ0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ME45v08fQ0)

(ii) Elections
- Mark O'Brien and Donnacha Ó Beacháin (eds.), *Political Communication in the Republic of Ireland* (2014), esp. chapters by Ó’Beacháin

(iii) Newspapers, proprietors and ‘making’ news
- Karen Steele and Michael De Nie, *Ireland and the New Journalism* (2014), esp. introduction and chapters by Morash and Larkin
● Patrick Maume, ‘William Martin Murphy, The Irish Independent and Middle-Class Politics, 1905-19’ in Fintan Lane (ed.), *Politics, society and the middle class in modern Ireland* (2010)

(iv) British representations of the Irish question

(v) Broadcasting
● Mark O’Brien and Donnacha Ó Beacháin (eds.), *Political Communication in the Republic of Ireland* (2014), esp. introduction, and chapters by Kavanagh, Byrne, and other relevant
● John Hill, *Cinema and Northern Ireland: film, culture and politics* (2006), esp. chapters 1-3, 7 and other relevant chapters
17. The First World War in Irish history: key debates

- Adrian Gregory and Senia Pašeta (eds), Ireland and the Great War: ‘A War To Unite Us All?” (Manchester, 2002), esp. introduction and chapters by Reilly, & Boyce.
- Adrian Gregory, “‘You might as well recruit Germans”: British public opinion and the decision to conscript the Irish in 1918’, in A. Gregory and S. Pašeta (eds), Ireland and the Great War: ‘A War To Unite Us All?” (Manchester, 2002), pp. 113-32.
- Niamh Gallagher, Ireland and the Great War: A social and political history (London, 2020), esp. chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6.
- Catriona Pennell, A Kingdom United: Popular Responses to the Outbreak of the First World War in Britain and Ireland (Oxford, 2012), chs. 6 and conclusion.

18. War, memory and forgetting

General


**WWI**
● Paul Taylor, *Heroes or Traitors? Experiences of Southern Irish soldiers returning from the Great War, 1919-1939* (2015), introduction and select chapters
● Niamh Gallagher, *Ireland and the Great War: A social and political history* (London, 2020), esp. chapters 2 and 8
● Jason Myres, *The Great War and Memory in Irish Culture, 1918 - 2010* (2016), chapters 2 and 6

**The Irish Revolution**
● Mary Daly and Margaret O’Callaghan (eds.), *1916 in 1966: commemorating the Easter Rising* (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2007), esp. chapters 1, 5, 10

NI
• Jim Smyth, *Remembering the Troubles: contesting the recent past in Northern Ireland* (2017)

19. Political thought and the Irish Revolution

Primary
• A. V. Dicey, *A Fool’s Paradise, Being a Constitutionalist’s Criticism on the Home Rule Bill of 1912* (London, 1913)
• Louis François Alphonse Paul-Dubois, *Contemporary Ireland* (Dublin, 1908).
• Patrick Pearse, *Collected Works of Pádraic H. Pearse: Political Writings and Speeches* (Dublin, Cork and Belfast, 1924).

Secondary

### 20. The Northern Irish Troubles and the Peace Process

#### Primary
- See generally: [https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/issues/politics/source2.htm](https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/issues/politics/source2.htm).

#### Secondary

#### Sample exam questions

1. ‘Laissez-faire attitudes among policymakers should be blamed for the scale of excess mortality during the Irish Famine.’ Discuss.

2. Why were the Irish able to secure so many concessions and reforms from Westminster between 1870 and 1921?

3. How important was the cultural revival in changing the character of the Irish nationalism?
4. ‘Loyalty to the Union best explains the Unionist protest against Home Rule.’ Discuss.

5. ‘The differences between Unionism and Nationalism obscure the similarities between them.’ Discuss.

6. What role did the First World War play in shaping the character of the Irish Revolution?

7. Did Britain or Ireland gain more from the Anglo-Irish trade war of 1932-38?

8. Was Ireland a colony?

9. The Proclamation of the Irish Republic issued in 1916 asserted the full equality of men and women. Why was this goal not achieved?

10. Is public commemoration of wars more a reflection of the present than of the past?

11. To what extent can the origins of the Troubles explain the course of their descent?

12. Is Irish journalism independent from politics?