COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Life springs from death," cried a famous Irish rebel in 1915, "and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." The British, he continued, "have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Since the 1790s Irish revolutionary nationalism has drawn much of its strength from this cult of the dead celebrated by Patrick Pearse in 1915. The Irish revolutionary tradition, however, was long denied its goal. Time after time, revolutionary republicanism either failed to arouse mass support, as in 1848, 1867, and 1916, or having done so, as in 1798, was crushed nevertheless. One of our objectives in this course will be to understand the reasons for these repeated defeats. But it was a central aspect of Irish nationalism that even the so-called constitutional nationalists, who rejected violence as the means of overthrowing British rule, were not without sympathy for the revolutionary tradition. We shall therefore be concerned to examine the succession of constitutional nationalist movements not only in their own right but also with an eye to the influence which the revolutionary tradition exercised over them. Finally, we will explore why it was that southern Ireland owed the degree of independence which it achieved in 1921-22 not to the constitutional variety of nationalism, dominant as it usually was, but rather to the violent revolutionary tradition. No doubt the triumph of 1921-22 was incomplete, but it was still substantial. The lesson of this triumph after repeated defeat is one of the things that gives such desperate courage to the Provisional I.R.A. today. History, as they interpret it, teaches them to soldier on, to endure, to suffer—indeed, to court suffering—in the unalterable conviction that some day victory will be theirs, theirs again.

LECTURES

Lectures two days per week (Tu, Th, 1:00-2:15), supplemented by weekly discussion meetings and/or audio-visual presentations, including films, slides, and music.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Besides a final exam, there will be either one or two hour exams, depending upon the decision of the students during the first week of class. Those students who take the course for 4 credits will be asked to do a short essay (2,500 words) on some controverted issue relating to the subject matter of the course.
GRADING SYSTEM

If the students decide to have only one hour exam plus the final, the grade for the course will be determined on the following basis: active interest and regular participation in discussion, 15 percent; hour exam, 35 percent; final exam, 50 percent. If, on the other hand, the students decide to have two hour exams plus the final, a number of grading options will be offered, allowing students to determine, within broad limits, how they wish their grade for the course to be determined.

REQUIRED READINGS

Hachey, Hernon & McCaffrey, The Irish Experience (Prentice-Hall).

Kerby Miller, Emigrants and Exiles (Oxford University Press).

Michael Laffan, The Partition of Ireland (Dundalgan Press).


Ed Moloney & Andy Pollok, Paisley (Poolbeg Press).
## History 365

### GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/5 - 9/8</td>
<td>1. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11 - 9/15</td>
<td>2. The Irish Volunteers and the Constitution of 1782</td>
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<td>9/18 - 9/22</td>
<td>3. The United Irishmen, the Rebellion of 1798, and the Union</td>
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<td>9/25 - 9/29</td>
<td>4. Catholic Emancipation, Repeal, and Young Ireland</td>
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<td>10/2 - 10/6</td>
<td>5. Fenianism</td>
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<td>10/9 - 10/13</td>
<td>The Home Rule Movement under Butt and Parnell</td>
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<td>10/16 - 10/20</td>
<td>The Land War, 1879-1903</td>
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<td>10/23 - 10/27</td>
<td>The &quot;Irishing&quot; of Ireland: The Gaelic League, the Gaelic Athletic</td>
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<td>Association, and the Literary Revival</td>
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<td>11/6 - 11/10</td>
<td>10. The Easter Rising and the Sinn Fein Revolution, 1916-21</td>
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<td>11/20 - 11/24</td>
<td>12. Northern Ireland under Home Rule: Monolithic Unionism and the</td>
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<td>Siege Mentality</td>
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<td>11/27 - 12/1</td>
<td>13. From Reform to Violence: O'Neill, Paisley, and Civil Rights</td>
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<td>12/4 - 12/8</td>
<td>14. The British Army Intervenes</td>
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<td>12/11 - 12/15</td>
<td>15. The Extremist Game: The Provisional I.R.A. and Loyalist Vigilantes</td>
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History 365

Revolution and Nationalism in Ireland, 1780 to the Present

Suggested Paper Topics

1. Daniel O'Connell: Did He Deserve Popularity after 1829?


2. The Great Famine: How Much Did the British Government Do?


3. Fenianism in the 1860s: Why Did It Fail So Miserably?


4. Gladstone and the Irish Land Question: Was He on the Right Track?


5. The Land War: What Caused It?


6. Parnell's Fall: Who and What Were Responsible?


7. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921: How Badly Did It Divide the Irish People?


8. The Catholic Church since 1921: Vast Power or Misunderstood Influence?


9. The Northern Ireland Crisis: What Is the Basic Problem—Sectarianism, Colonialism, or What?


SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IRISH HISTORY

Synopsis

I. Before 1800

II. Since 1800
   a. Politics, 1800-1914
   b. Politics since 1914
   c. Economic, Social, and Cultural History

III. Two Textbooks

I. Before 1800


Lydon, J.F., The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. No other book attempting to deal with medieval Ireland has similar breadth and scope; yet mainly a work of interpretation rather than description.


Moody, T.W., F.X. Martin, and F.J. Byrne, eds., A New History of Ireland, Vol. III: Early Modern Ireland, 1534-1691. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976. Much of what is known, and worth knowing, about early modern Ireland can be found in this rich volume, the first to appear in a grand project of collective scholarly labor. All major aspects of the history of the period are treated, each by an expert.
Nicholls, K.W., *Gaelic and Gaelicized Ireland in the Middle Ages*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. The first coherent account of the society, laws, and institutions that lay beyond the reach of the Dublin government; a work of considerable erudition in a neglected field.


II. Since 1800

a. Politics, 1800-1914


b. Politics since 1914


Whyte, J.H., Church and State in Modern Ireland, 1923-79. 2nd ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1984. The classic work on the political influence of the Catholic church; takes the measure of the church's power without exaggerating it, as numerous writers have done.

c. Economic, Social, and Cultural History


Connolly, S.J., Priests and People in Pre-Famine Ireland, 1780–1845. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1982. The most important book in Irish ecclesiastical history in many years; shows how wide was the cultural gulf between the Catholic clergy and their often nominal parishioners; also shows that sexual repression was not a characteristic of pre-Famine society.


Donnelly, J.S., Jr., The Land and the People of Nineteenth-Century Cork: The Rural Economy and the Land Question. London and Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1975. Prize-winning study of the transformation in Irish agriculture and rural social relations, as seen from the perspective of Ireland's largest county; revises long-established views about the mercenary character of Irish landlordism after 1850.


III. Two Textbooks

Ó Tuathaigh, Gearóid, Ireland before the Famine, 1798–1848. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. By far the most comprehensive and reliable general work on early nineteenth-century Ireland; suitable for the specialist and nonspecialist alike.

Lyons, F.S.L., Ireland since the Famine. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. The magisterial work of a great historian; better for political and cultural than for social and economic history, but offering more solid fare than any five competitors.