

2nd-Year Module Descriptions

SEMESTER 1

COLLOQUIA (10 ects)

HI166: Ireland in the 1950s

Dr Tomás Finn

This colloquium examines perceptions of the 1950s in Ireland as a lost decade. It considers the economic stagnation from which the country suffered but also looks at the emergence of a culture of inquiry and many of the policies that shaped contemporary Ireland.

HI295: The American Civil War: Causes and Developments

Dr Enrico Dal Lago

This colloquium will introduce students to the American Civil War, which between 1861 and 1865 caused more than 600,000 dead, destroyed the lives of an entire generation, and led to the emancipation of 4,000,000 African American slaves. Through the analysis of key documents –ranging from South Carolina’s Declaration of the Causes of Secession to Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation – and through the reading of writings by key historians, students will familiarize with the main issues of contention in the American Civil War and with the different scholarly interpretations of them.

HI2121 Studies in Modern History.I: The African-American Civil Rights Movements, 1954-1968

Dr Ronán De Bhaldraithe

This colloquium explores the African-American civil rights movements in the period 1954-1968. It examines the changes within the movements during this period as well as the differences between the movements’ focus in the Southern and Northern states, from voter registration drives in the rural South to the Black Panther’s “Ten Point Program” in California. The course will emphasise the role of people such as Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Jr., Stokely Carmichael, and Malcolm X., while also highlighting the stories of lesser known individuals in regional movements. Using primary sources such as poems, songs, legal documents and pamphlets as well as a wide range of secondary sources, students will discuss the main social, cultural, political and economic problems facing African-Americans in the United States in this period.

HI2117 Studies in Early Modern History.I: Social & Cultural Changes in 17th-century Ireland

Dr Mark Empey

Note: you cannot take both HI2110 and this module.

Approaches to seventeenth-century Irish history for the most part are analysed along political and religious lines. The period has been characterised as 'the war of religions' and 'an age of disruption'. However, such an outlook is limited in its assessment because it overlooks social and cultural aspects that were hugely significant in the development of Irish society.

This course, therefore, examines the problem of social and cultural change through the lens of governance. At the heart of this will be exploring the views and ideas of various groups within the Irish polity, specifically how society and government was to be organised and how those ideas related to, and conflicted with, each other. The course will be structured by devoting a week to each decade of the seventeenth century. Each decade contains its own problems that students will examine and analyse. Lectures will establish a narrative framework while seminars will discuss selected texts in greater detail.

LECTURES (5ects)

HI211: Medieval Ireland 5th-9th century

Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín

This lecture module comprises a survey of the history, politics, culture, literature and society of Ireland in the Early Middle Ages (from c. AD 400 to c. AD 800). It traces the transition from a so-called 'tribal' society to one in which 'dynastic' politics are the norm, and explains how that change is reflected in society. It ends with an assessment of the Viking impact in Ireland.

The lectures cover such themes as Early Irish (Brehon) law and institutions; politics and society; the origins of Irish artistic and literary culture; the beginnings of Christianity and the later evolution of the Irish Church; the Irish abroad, and the Vikings. Students are introduced to some of the original documentary material used by historians.

HI2110 Making Ireland English, 1580-1665

Dr Pádraig Lenihan

(Note: you cannot take both HI2117 (colloquium) and this module.)

This is a survey lecture module designed to introduce students to debates and interpretations surrounding the formative political, economic, military and social events and themes of early modern Ireland. The survey takes as its organizing grand narrative the multifaceted conflicts between a centralizing Tudor and Stuart state and local or native elites be they Gaelic, Old English, Irish, or 'English of Ireland'.

HI267: Reformation Europe

Dr Alison Forrestal

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, western Europeans shared a common religious identity as members of the Catholic church. By 1563, European society had altered irrevocably, with the unity wrought by religious affiliation replaced by an array of conflicting churches and sects. This period, commonly known as the Reformation, was an era of unprecedented change in European history, with enormous and enduring significance for the political and cultural development of Europe. 'Reformation Europe' will trace the inauspicious beginnings of the Reformation in 1517, when the scholarly monk Martin Luther defied pope and emperor by refusing to retract his criticisms of catholic doctrines and devotions, such as indulgences. It will examine the origins of the protest, asking what longer term political, cultural and social trends contributed to its outbreak, and transformed an isolated intellectual debate into a revolution. It will also trace the rapid growth of support for dissent and reform, followed by the radicalisation and fragmentation of the new movement as it spread across the German lands, and into England and Scotland, Switzerland and France. The political and social implications of the Reformation were thrashed out in revolts and wars, such as the Peasants' Revolt (1524), and the French civil wars (1562), which will form case studies in the module.

HI2123: Life and Death in Victorian Britain

Dr Laurence Marley

This lecture module provides a survey of the social and cultural history of Britain in the nineteenth century. This was an age that transformed everyday life through the unprecedented and celebrated expansion of trade, transport, communications and empire. But it was also one that witnessed grinding child labour, draconian workhouses, pathologies and neuroses associated with rail travel and scientific innovation, poor sanitation and deadly diseases, and the Victorian 'invention' of death.

HI2116: Religion and Irish Life in 20th-century Ireland

Dr Mary Harris

How significant was religion in twentieth-century Ireland? What do terms and slogans such as 'Catholic Ireland', 'Rome Rule' and 'For God and Ulster' mean? What role did churches play in shaping modern Ireland? What was the fate of religious minorities after partition? Why did the roles and influence of churches change in the course of the century? This lecture module explores the impact of religious issues on twentieth-century Irish politics, culture and society. Religious questions and church figures featured prominently in political, cultural and social debates prior to partition. After the formation of the Irish Free State, the Catholic Church exercised a profound and sometimes controversial influence on Irish society, but this was not an insular society; many Irish Catholics had a strong sense of being part of a wider Catholic World. In Northern Ireland, religion and identity remained intertwined and the significance of religion as a factor in the Northern Ireland conflict has been the subject of some debate. More recently churches have been involved in attempts to promote reconciliation. Towards the end of the twentieth century globalisation and immigration raised new questions about religion and Irish identity.

HI292: Central Europe, 1867-1918

Dr Róisín Healy

Definitions of Central Europe vary, but for the purposes of this lecture module, the term refers to the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires. Together these two empires covered vast territories from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Adriatic in the south, from which many of the recent EU-accession states emerged. These empires experienced similar tensions to states in western Europe, for instance, over the relationship between church and state, the social consequences of industrialization, and the acquisition of overseas colonies. Their ethnic heterogeneity, however, gave rise to other, more serious divisions. German nationalism clashed with the nationalisms of Poles, Slovaks, Magyars and others. This course examines both the 'normal' problems of Central Europeans at this time and those that derived from the clash of nationalisms in these two empires. Figures familiar to western Europeans, such as Bismarck, William II and Francis Joseph I, all make appearances, as do others who are better known to central Europeans, such as Józef Pilsudski, Tomas Masaryk, and Rosa Luxemburg.

SEMESTER 2

COLLOQUIA (10 ects)

HI2103: Monarchy and Society in Early Seventeenth-Century France

Dr Alison Forrestal

The beginning of the seventeenth century heralded a new era for the kingdom of France: after four decades of civil war a new dynasty of Bourbon kings took power, and wielded it until the French Revolution. This colloquium examines the reigns of Louis XVI's predecessors, Louis XIII and his son Louis XIV (the 'Sun King of Versailles') from 1610 to 1661. It focuses on the political and social challenges involved in asserting the 'absolute' authority of the new regime, and examines the claim that the political and social roots of the French Revolution lay in these periods of rule. Knowledge of the French language is not required, since readings (documents and secondary sources) on the workings of the royal court, popular revolts, noble faction and rebellion, etc. will be provided in translation.

HI2113: Making and Breaking of Britain in the Twentieth Century

Dr Tomás Finn

This colloquium asks what it means to be British. The twentieth century ended with the opening of the National Assembly of Wales and a parliament in Scotland. These were in many ways unexpected and unlikely events. It was Scotland's first parliament for 300 years and the first in Wales for almost 600 years. This colloquium considers the factors that led to their establishment and may in turn lead to the break-up of Britain, along with the ties that continue to unite the country. It examines not just the question of national identity especially for the Scots and Welsh, but also the phenomenon of

English nationalism. Topics include the impact of two world wars, the decline of the British Empire, economic challenges, the European Union and the political awakening of both women and the working classes. By considering the long and short term factors that led to devolution, this colloquium helps us to understand what it is to be English, Welsh and Scottish within a British context.

HI494 British Social Movements from 1945-1990

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley

From 1945, Britain's political and cultural landscape has been changed by social movements campaigning on issues of gender, race, disability, sexuality, the environment, and peace. This colloquium will address these movements, while also assessing the extent to which they resulted in political, social and economic change. From early attempts to decriminalize gay sex to the movement against globalization, this course will look at a range of topics previously neglected by historians of post-war Britain. In doing so, it will question not only the radicalism of individual movements, but how they fragmented in the 1980s and the extent to which they affected the political agenda.

HI2101 The 'Global Irish': Irish Identity, 1968-1998

Dr Kevin O'Sullivan

What did it mean to be Irish in the thirty years from the outbreak of the Troubles to the beginning of the Celtic Tiger? This colloquium explores evolving Irish identity in a global context under a number of headings: music, film, sport, migration, globalisation. It examines outside perceptions of Ireland, from foreign policy and the 'begging bowl' culture at the EEC to the self-confident Celtic Tiger. And it concludes with a question: how did global conceptions of 'Irishness' change over this period?

LECTURES (5 ects)

HI262: Medieval Europe, c. 1050-1250

Dr Kimberly LoPrete

This survey lecture module introduces students to key actors, events and ideas that shaped culture, politics and religious affairs in the central middle ages—a period that saw great experimentation and expansion followed by the development of legal and administrative structures to centralise monarchs' powers in both 'church' and 'states'. Topics treated in lectures include how lordship shaped knightly, clerical, peasant and burgess communities; papal reform and Christian kingship; the Norman impact in England and south Italy; 'reconquista' and the first crusade; new religious movements, both orthodox and heterodox; the rise of universities. Lectures are complemented by the discussion in tutorials of primary sources devoted to such themes as medieval warfare; the relations of kings and prelates; the charismatic religious figures Peter Waldo and Francis of Assisi; the purpose and reach of inquisitors; and legal compilations like the canons of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), Magna Carta (1215) and the Constitutions of Melfi (1231).

HI249: Ireland: Economy & Society, 1700-1850

Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin

This course views the period from the early eighteenth century to the 1840s in Ireland as one long economic cycle. The second half of the eighteenth century was the longest period of economic expansion in Irish history, while the first half of the nineteenth was a time of contraction and economic crisis. This module explores the political and cultural manifestations of that cycle. In the political sphere, expansion and contraction both created acute social tensions which gave rise to large-scale popular politicisation and political activity, frequently violent, with a climax in the 1798 rebellion. State responses to this activity included a professional police force and a centralised education system, establishing many of the structures of the modern state.

HI459 The Tudors: Religion, State & Society

Dr Mark Empey

When Elizabeth I died in 1603 the Tudor state had overseen a remarkable change since Henry VII assumed the throne in 1485. Far from the medieval structures inherited by Henry the government under Elizabeth was noticeably more stable and powerful. Control over Ireland, Wales and northern England had been secured with the establishment of regional administrations, the head of the Church was no longer the pope but instead it was the monarch of England who assumed the title of 'supreme governor', and society had become distinctly peaceful, gentry-dominated and 'civil' with the result that traditional social structures were being challenged. This course will examine various political, religious and social aspects including themes such as the restoration of government, the Tudor revolution and the break with Rome, the mid-Tudor crisis, economic and social change, the Elizabethan settlement and Tudor foreign policy.

HI170: Europe, 1919-89

Dr Gearóid Barry

This is a survey lecture module of politics and society across Europe since the First World War. It will pay special attention to key states such as Germany, France and the Soviet Union and key themes such as the role of political ideology, ethnic conflict, decolonization and the process of European integration. Students will be exposed to a broad range of historiographical interpretations, seeking to give a holistic overview that does not excessively privilege Western Europe or the totalitarian states.

HI2100: Ireland in a Global Context, 1922-2002

Dr Kevin O'Sullivan

What does Irish history look like when told as part of a much broader European and global narrative? This lecture module examines the major themes in Irish history -state-building and economic crisis in the 1920s and the 1930s, neutrality in the Second World War, economic liberalisation, globalisation, social, cultural and political evolution -all as part of a global narrative of change. It concludes with a question: where should we locate Irish history in the twentieth century?

HI2102: The Modern United States, 1865-2008

Dr Enrico Dal Lago

This lecture module will introduce students to the history and historiography of the United States between the end of the Civil War and the last presidential elections. Specific themes will include racial politics in the U.S. South, expansion into the West, industrialization, imperialism, the two world wars and the making of the U.S. global power, the Cold War, the 1960s with the Civil Rights Movement, the student protest, and Vietnam, and finally the long conservative backlash from Nixon to Bush, Jr.