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Modern Irish History

Politics, Culture, and Society in Ireland, 1770-1921

Catholic University of America, Spring 2010

Wednesdays, 6: 10-8: 40 pm, Pangborn 204

Welcome! This course is designed to give students a strong grasp of the key developments in Ireland's cultural, political, and economic history between the 1798 Rebellion and the foundation of the Irish Free State. This period represents one of the most eventful and contentious years in Irish history: after the threatened French invasion and widespread uprising of 1798, Ireland and Britain concluded a legislative union in an attempt to more closely integrate the two states and provide for a more lasting and peaceful situation in Ireland itself. Yet subsequent decades proved to be far from settled as Catholic Emancipation, nationalism, famine, and the stirrings of Home Rule proved highly contentious on both sides of the Irish Sea.



Robert Peel loses sleep over Ireland...

Course Texts. Two texts are required for this course:

Cormac Ó Gráda, *Black '47 and Beyond* (paperback, 2000)

Peter Hart, *The I.R.A. & Its Enemies* (paperback, 1998)

A third text is optional. Students who have not taken a course in Irish history before are advised to purchase:

T.W. Moody and F.X. Martin, *The Course of Irish History* (4th ed., paperback, 2002)

All three will be available at the CUA bookstore.

In addition to these texts, we will be reading a variety of selections from academic journals and books. Some of these we will obtain and share from CUA's library; others will be made available in either pdf or hard copy form. Check the "[Reading Schedule](#)" link for information on how to obtain each of these.

Course Requirements. A copy of the syllabus and a summary of class assignments is available [here](#).



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Weekly Reading Schedule

* = Available at Mullen Library course reserve

> = Text for purchase

Week 2: Agrarian Violence, Secret Societies, and Rural Solidarity

*Michael Beames, *Peasant and Power*, pgs. 21-110

Paul E.W. Roberts, "Caravats and Shanavest," pgs. 64-101

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 176-189, 204-217

Week 3: Republicanism, Ideology, and Gender

*Kevin Whelan, *Tree of Liberty*, pgs. 59-130

*Nancy Curtin, "A Nation of Abortive Men," pgs. 33-52

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 190-203

Week 4: O'Connell, Mass Politics, and the "Monster Meetings"

*Thomas Bartlett, *Fall and Rise of the Irish Nation*, pgs. 304-342

Option--Choose one:

Gary Owens, "Nationalism without Words," pgs. 242-269

Coimhín O Danachair, "Dónall O Conaill," pgs. 40-66

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 204-217

Week 5: SNOW CANCELLATION

Week 6: The Great Famine

>Cormac O Gráda, *Black '47 and Beyond*

Niall O Ciosáin, "Was there Silence About the Great Famine?" pgs. 7-10

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 218-227

Week 7: The Devotional Revolution and Beyond

Emmet Larkin, "The Devotional Revolution in Ireland," pgs. 625-652

Larry Taylor, *Occasions of Faith*, pgs. 145-89

James S. Donnelly, Jr., "Lough Derg: The Making of a Modern Pilgrimage" pgs. 491-507

Week 8: The Irish Language, Urban and Rural

Máirtín O Murchú, "The Retreat from Irish," pgs. 112-21

Fionntán de Brún, "The Fadgies," pgs. 101-13

Joseph Lee, *Ireland 1912-1985*, pgs. 662-74

Option--Choose one:

Seán de Fréine, "An Gorta agus an Ghaeilge," pgs. 55-68

R.A. Houston, "Minority Languages," pgs. 13-36

Week 9: No class (Spring recess)

Week 10: The Irish Abroad

Kevin Kenny, "The Irish in the Empire," pgs. 90-122

Nini Rodgers, "The Irish in the Caribbean," pgs. 145-56

Edmundo Murray, "Irish Road to South America," pgs. 28-44

Donald Akenson, "The Historiography of the Irish in the United States," pgs. 99-127

Week 11: Local and Popular Politics

*K. Theodore Hoppen, *Elections, Politics, and Society*, pgs. 1-88, 359-485

Pauric Travers, "A Bloodless Revolution," pgs. 12-23

Virginia Crossman, "The New Ross Workhouse Riots," pgs. 135-58

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 228-244

Week 12: Labor and Gender

*Joanna Bourke, *Husbandry to Housewifery*, 1-53

Maria Luddy, "Women and Work in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Ireland," pgs. 48-56

Week 13: The Irish as Subject of Observation

*Perry Curtis, *Apes and Angels*, pgs. 1-57

*Michael de Nie, *The Eternal Paddy*, pgs. 1-35

Week 14: Irish Unionism and its Varieties

Alvin Jackson, "Irish Unionism, 1870-1922" pgs. 115-36

D.G. Boyce, "Edward Carson and Irish Unionism" pgs. 145-57

Week 15: Radical Republicanism

>Peter Hart, *The I.R.A. and its Enemies*

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 245-259

Week 16: Civil War and the Birth of Northern Ireland

*Thomas Hennessey, *A History of Northern Ireland*, 1-55

Patrick Buckland, "A Protestant State," pgs. 211-26

Suggested reading from Moody/Martin: pgs. 262-271



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In-class

Each week, two students will be responsible for preparing three or four discussion questions regarding that week's readings for circulation by e-mail.

These questions should be sent out at least 24 hours prior to our class meeting.



Rockites compare notes...

Zotero

To facilitate sharing of any web or print resources we find in the course of the semester outside of the classroom, we will be using the bibliographic and academic notetaking resource Zotero. This excellent add-on to Mozilla Firefox will enable us to share any notes or reactions we have to our readings as well as share websites we find that relate to the subjects at hand.

To download Zotero, head to their website, zotero.org. You'll need to take two steps. First, download their Zotero 2.0 Beta version. This program will install as an inconspicuous add-on in Mozilla (if you don't have Mozilla as a browser, you'll need to download that from mozilla.org). After installation, Zotero can be opened as an overlay window by clicking on the icon in the lower right corner of your browser. Bibliographic records can be entered manually or captured directly from whatever web page you are on by clicking on the icon the appears in your URL window at the far right. Zotero's website has a great video introduction to using this service, but I will also be going over this in class.

Once you have Zotero successfully installed, the second step is to sign up for an account on zotero.org. This gives you a username and the ability to set any privacy settings you want for your own zotero library. More importantly, once you have a username you can join the group library I will set up for our class (and our class only). This will allow us to share our notes as well any new sources we find by way of the group library.

Again, this is easier than it sounds and I will be sending out more detailed instructions as well as go over this in class to get us all up to speed.