

Course: Politics and Conflict in Ireland

Course Code: POL 491

Credits: 3 credits

Course Description:

Ireland's turbulent history provides the student with a complex backdrop in which to study the causes and effects of conflict. The resolution of the conflict in Northern Ireland through the Peace Process of the '90s will be of interest to students engaged in the study of politics, sociology and conflict studies.

Aims of Course

1. To familiarise students with the Northern Ireland conflict and the resolution of that conflict
2. To gain an understanding of some of the sources of conflict in society
3. To recognize the complex nature of the peace making process and the paths to reconciliation

Learning goals

- Examine the roots of conflict in the history of 19th century Ireland
- Identify the main parties associated with the conflict in Northern Ireland
- Analyse the main causes of conflict and compare conflict situations in other jurisdictions
- Recognise the important role of conflict mediators
- Summarise the role of the peace-makers

Course Objectives

This course will consist of three strands; first an examination of the source of political conflicts in general, second, the history of 19th century Ireland and the foundations of political conflict in Northern Ireland from 1968 to the present giving brief descriptions of the main parties and their interests in the conflict and third the role of the communities, Irish and British government and the US administration in the peace process. The course will focus on civil rights, religion and politics and the emergence of paramilitary organisations.

Procedures

Lectures: 6 hours per week.

Classes (2 in the morning) will be of 85 minutes duration either side of a ten-minute break. Students will be assigned readings, online tasks and video presentations. The courses aim to develop skills and knowledge through flexible delivery, which will include active learning, collaborative group work, facilitated group discussion and structured activities. Tutors will endeavor to promote learner autonomy to enable students to achieve maximum potential from their courses. Questioning, debate and discussion and interactive activities such as drama and role play will be integral to the delivery of lectures

Field trips: 5 hours per week

- Visit to Dáil Éireann, inc. interview with a TD or senator
- Glasnevin Cemetery and Visitor Centre

Jeanie Johnston famine ship

Kilmainham Jail

Tour of Belfast's murals and visit to the NI Assembly, Stormont (day trip)

Assessment:

An oral presentation using ICT (ie. powerpoint) on a chosen topic 80%

Engagement in class and on fieldtrips 20%

Policy on Attendance

Attendance at each class is mandatory. Students are required to sign in for each class.

A record will be maintained by the lecturer.

Reading List (Indicative)

Northern Ireland – A Very Short Introduction, Mark Mullholland (2002) Oxford

University Press *Lost Lives: The Stories of the Men, Women and Children Who Died*

Through the Northern Ireland Troubles, David Mc Kittrick

Making Sense of the Troubles in Northern Ireland - David McKittrick, David McVea

(2001) Penguin Books *Great Hatred*, Little Room: *Making Peace in Northern Ireland*

– Jonathon Powell

Course Syllabus: Politics and Conflict in Ireland

Day 1: General overview of Irish history (Tommy Graham)

Historical walking tour of Dublin (Meet @ Trinity College front gate)

Visit to Dáil Éireann

Day 2: Mobilization of Irish Politics 1800 -1900 (John Gibney)

Daniel O'Connell and the Penal laws

Irish Republican Brotherhood

C.S Parnell and Home Rule

Cultural Nationalism (GAA, Gaelic League etc.)

Field trip to Glasnevin Cemetery

Day 3: The Great Famine & its Aftermath (Tommy Graham)

Why did Ireland starve?

Religion, sex & marriage

Demography

Emigration & immigration

Visit to the *Jeanie Johnston* famine ship & Moore Street market (contemporary multi-ethnic Ireland)

Day 4: 'A terrible beauty is born' 1912 -1918 (John Gibney)

Home Rule crisis (mobilization of unionists under Carson and Craig)

First World War

1916 Easter Rising (in reality and its aftermath)

Political leaders: Redmond, Pearse, Griffith, Connolly.

Field trip to Kilmainham Jail

Day 5: The Emergence of ‘Two Irelands’ (John Gibney)

War of Independence

Civil War

Partition & the establishment of Northern Ireland

DeValera’s Ireland

View *The Wind That Shakes The Barley*

Day 6: Northern Ireland, ‘a factory of grievances’ (John Gibney)

Early years of the Northern Ireland state (RUC, gerrymandering etc.)

Civil Rights 1960s, Bogside riots, etc.

Fall of O’Neill’s government

Key People: Bernadette Devlin, Ian Paisley, John Hume, Fr Alex Reid □

Hunger strikes 1980-81

The Peace Process

Good Friday Agreement

Tutorial on *Lost Lives* (each student to research & analyse one of the c. 3,600 victims of the Troubles). Who was killed, by whom, etc.?

Day 7: Day trip to Belfast (10 hours) (Tommy Graham)

Tour of murals, republican & loyalist

Lunch in the Crown Bar

Visit to Northern Ireland Assembly & interview with MLA

Day 8: Southern responses to the Northern Troubles (Tommy Graham)

Arms Crisis 1970

Section 31

The ‘Heavy Gang’

Students’ oral presentations.

Sample of literature and chapters to be used:

Cox, M., Guelke, A., and Stephen, F. (eds) ‘A Farewell to Arms? From ‘long war’ to long peace in Northern Ireland’ Manchester University Press, Manchester

Ferriter, D., (2005) ‘The Transformation of Ireland 1900-200), Profile Books Ltd, London

Jackson, A., (2007) ‘Ireland: 1798 -1998’ Blackwell Publishing, Oxford

McGarry, J., and O’Leary, B., ‘Explaining Northern Ireland’, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford

Ruane, J., and Todd, J., (2000) ‘The Dynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland’, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Wichert, S., (1999) ‘Northern Ireland since 1945’ Pearson Education Ltd, Edinburgh