CIEE Dublin, Ireland

Course title: Irish Culture, Society, and Identity
Course code: SOCI 3002 IREL
Programs offering course: Dublin City University Arts and Sciences, Trinity College Arts and Sciences, University College Dublin Arts and Sciences
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

This course examines the emergence of Ireland as an independent entity and the formation of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It begins by looking at the early influences on modern Ireland such as the War of Independence, the Civil War, and the partition of Ireland into the North and South. This forms the basis for the examination of twentieth and twenty-first century Ireland's political, social and cultural landscape.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine the primary historic factors that have shaped Irishness in the context of socio-political identity
- Evaluate features of the political and cultural milieu within which the independence movement thrived and ultimately succeeded in its aims and objectives
- Identify and assess the influence of historical processes, ideologies and political movements on the creation of the social, economic and cultural conflicts in Northern Ireland
- Appraise the influences that have shaped and are forming new cultural, economic, religious, political, ethno-racial and class pathways in today’s Ireland

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be taught through a variety of methods including:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Site visits related to course content
- In-class and independent multimedia screening including films, documentaries and contemporary media sources

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Written Responses 20%
2. Group Discussion 10%
3. Media Assignment on Contemporary Ireland 25%
4. Final Essay on Irish Cultural Identity 25%
5. Classroom participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Written Responses

Students will write two (2) critical responses to any ‘Further Reading’ texts over the course of the module.
Students are free to choose any text recommended in the ‘Further Reading’ section of class and are encouraged to ask the lecturer for help in obtaining the text if necessary. Responses should consist of students critically evaluating the significance of their chosen text in light of what they have learned on the course. They should be supported with at least two (2) references to additional academic sources.

Word Count: 750 words each (excluding title page and references).

**Group Discussion**

Students, in groups, are required to lead a class discussion relating to one (1) selected course text. This will involve preparing questions for classmates and guiding the in-class discussion.

**Media Assignment on Contemporary Ireland**

Students will use Irish media sources to select five (5) articles, news reports or current affairs programs to assess a theme of contemporary Ireland. In an answer the student will define the theme, refer to its importance in a contemporary Irish context, and assess its portrayal in the media. An indicative list of topics is provided to students.

Word Count: 2000 words (excluding title page and references).

**Final Essay on Irish Cultural Identity**

The students are provided with several essay topics which cover the breadth of the class. These topics are provided to the students early in the course so they can begin some of the preparatory work. Students may devise their own topic but must have it approved by the lecturer. Topics must be based on material covered in the lecture series. The use of readings and academic references is required. In this context, it is expected that the essay will involve independent research and critical analysis.

Word Count: 2000 words (excluding title page and references).

**Classroom participation**

Students are expected to have read each required reading and participate in every class discussion and group activity. Original and critical thinking are encouraged, along with an ability to speak articulately and take part in challenging but respectful discussions with each other and with the lecturer. Participation will be noted by the instructor both in terms of frequency but particularly relevance.

Late submissions of coursework/assignments during the course of the term of study are not accepted. Truly exceptional circumstances causing a student to request special consideration to submit an assignment late must be approved by the Director/Academic Director—individual professors do not have the authority to grant exceptions.

**Attendance**

Attendance is taken through Canvas at the beginning of every class. Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Students must notify their instructor via Canvas beforehand if they will miss class for any reason.

Excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor’s note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- evidence is provided of a family emergency
- CIEE Director approves an absence related to an observance of a religious holiday

Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; grade penalty &amp; written warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion</td>
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*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**  
Class: 1.0  
Course Outline and Introduction to Irish Culture, Society & Identity

- Syllabus & Assignments overview
- What is identity?
- The relationship between identity and power – class, gender, race
- Reading Due:

**Week 2**  
Class: 2.0  
Colonization & the Impact of the Famine

- Overview of developments in the colonization of Ireland
- Historical context and impact of The Great Famine
- Reading Due:
  - De Nie, 1998.

**Week 3**  
Class: 3.0  
Independence & Ireland as a Postcolonial Country

- Irish cultural identity after colonial rule
- Work Due:
  - Written Response 1
- Reading Due:
  - Barry, 2002.
  - Gibbons, 1996.

**Week 4**  
Class: 4.0  
The Troubles: The Specter Haunting Irish National Identity

- Historical context of Northern Ireland
- Screening & Class discussion of Bloody Sunday
- Reading Due:
  - Ashe, 2012.

**Week 5**  
Class: 5.0  
Boom & Bust: Ireland’s 21st Century Economic & Identity Crisis
The Celtic Tiger years, Ireland post 2008, and the impact on Irish self-perception

Work Due:
- Written Response 2

Reading Due:
- Bonner, 2011.
- Fitzgerald, 2014.

**Week 6**

Class: 6.0 Selling Irishness to the Irish and the Wider World

- Ireland viewed from within and without: conceptions and misconceptions
  - Work Due:
    - Media Assignment on Contemporary Ireland
  - Reading Due:
    - Fanning, 2011.
    - King, 2011.

**Week 7**

Class: 7.0 Religion in Modern Irish Society

- Changing position of the church in 21st century Ireland
  - Work Due:
    - Group 1 – Lead Class Discussion
  - Reading Due:

**Week 8**

Class: 8.0 Sport & Irish Identity: Uniting & Dividing National Community

- Importance of sport in Irish identity, North and South
  - Work Due:
    - Group 2 – Lead Class Discussion
  - Reading Due:
    - Free, 2015.
    - GAA, 2019.
    - Rouse, 2015.
    - Three, 2013.

**Week 9**

Class: 9.0 Gender & Irish Identity – The Irish Woman

- Women of the Revolution
- Women after the Revolution
  - Work Due:
    - Group 3 – Lead Class Discussion
  - Reading Due:
    - Ging, 2009.
    - Kiberd, 1996a.
    - Paechter, 2013

**Week 10**

Class: 10.0 Gender & Irish Identity – The Irish Man

- Hegemonic masculinity and the Irish context
- Online masculinities
- The Irish Liberal Revolution
  - Work Due:
    - Group 4 – Lead Class Discussion
  - Reading Due:
    - Ging, 2017.
Week 11
Class: 11.0 Ireland and Science Fiction: Is Ireland Futuristic?

- Ireland's sociotechnical imaginaries
- Reading Due:
  - Fennell, 2018.
  - McManus, 2018.
  - Ó hUid, 2018.

Week 12
Class: 12.0 Boston, Berlin, Brexit: Ireland's Place in the Wider World

- Impact of globalization on Ireland and Irish society
- Work Due:
  - Final Essay on Irish Cultural Identity
- Reading Due:
  - Inglis, 2008.

Course Materials
Readings


**Online Resources**

**Required Viewing**


GAA. 2019. Where We All Belong [video] Available at: [https://youtu.be/T1aKcXLsgCs](https://youtu.be/T1aKcXLsgCs) [Accessed 26 Feb. 2020].