SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-2017

HI4001 - SPECIAL SUBJECT
Irish Troubles
30 credits. 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Dr Colin Barr
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TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the events known collectively as the “Irish Troubles”.
That is, the origins, development and partial conclusion of non-violent and
violent opposition to the continuation of Northern Ireland within the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the mid-1960s until the
present day. Topics to be covered include the origins, nature and organization
of Northern Ireland; the Ulster Unionist Party; Irish nationalism; the civil rights
movement; the IRA and provisional IRA; paramilitary loyalism; political
loyalism; the Republic of Ireland and Irish republicanism; the United Kingdom
and Ulster Unionism; paramilitary tactics; counter-insurgency tactics; the
Hunger Strikes; the ‘Long War’; the origins of the peace process; the Good
Friday Agreement and its aftermath; dissident republicanism. Particular
attention is paid to the leading personalities involved in the Troubles as well
as the competing understandings of Irish (or Ulster, or British) identity that
underpinned much of the conflict. The study of original documents and
autobiographical accounts as well as popular representations (especially film)
forms an integral part of the course.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The aim of this course is to study the so-called Irish Troubles beginning in the
mid-1960s down to the present day, in a comparative context and through an
examination of contemporary records and secondary sources –written and
visual.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Learning outcomes:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- demonstrate a critical and comparative appreciation of a diverse
  and complex series of events which had and still has an enduring
  influence on the whole of the British Isles, including an
  understanding of the historiography of the Irish Troubles.
- evaluate a wide range of primary and secondary materials, including written and visual sources of information
- identity and deploy a wide variety of primary sources in their research and writing
- utilise a variety of methodologies to interpret both broad trends with the political history of the island of Ireland in the modern era and specialised aspects of the subject that particularly interest them
- challenge stereotyped views of the expectations and experiences of the various communities of Northern Ireland
- demonstrate analytical skills in scholarly debate through both verbal and written presentations

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1

S1 Introduction. Aims and objections of Special Subjects. Overview of the course and allocation of seminar papers.

S2 The historiography of Ireland, and the Irish Troubles.

Week 2

S3 The Calm Before the Storm

S4 The Civil Rights Movement

Week 3

S5 The Rise of the Provisionals

S6 The Loyalist Response

Week 4

S7 The British Response and the Irish Dilemma

S8 Documents – The Widgery Report
Week 5
S9 Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in an Urban Context
S10 Documents – The Saville Report

Week 6
S11 The ideology and organisation of republicanism
S12 Seminar presentations

Week 7
S13 The ballot box and the armalite
S14 Seminar presentations

Week 8
S15 Good Friday
S16 Seminar Presentations

Week 9
S17 Good Friday
S18 Seminar presentations

Week 10
S19 Seminar Presentations
S20 Seminar Presentations

Week 11
S21 Seminar Presentations
S22 Seminar Presentations

Week 12
READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

READING LIST, IF APPLICABLE
Many of the books and articles relevant to this course are available in the University Library, either in print or through the Library’s online resources. Others can be obtained through inter-library loan. In addition to this finding aid, you are strongly encouraged to construct your own bibliography, making use of the Aberdeen University Library catalogue, but also the online catalogues of the National Library of Ireland (www.nli.ie) and the British Library (www.bl.uk). Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all students should obtain a copy of Richard English, Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA (Oxford, 2003/2005) and Ed Moloney, Voice from the Grave: Two Men’s War in Ireland (2010). Students are also particularly directed to the Dictionary of Irish Biography (www.dib.cambridge.org), which is free when accessed via a University of Aberdeen networked computer.

SECONDARY READING, IF APPLICABLE
Gerry Adams, Before the dawn: An autobiography
David Beresford, Ten men dead
Paul Bew and Henry Patterson, The British state and the Ulster crisis
Paul Bew, Peter Gibbon and Henry Patterson, Northern Ireland 1921-1996: Political forces and social classes
Frederick Boal and J. Douglas: Integration and division: Geographical perspectives on the Northern Ireland problem
John Bowman, DeValera and the Ulster question, 1917-1973
J. Bowyer Bell, The secret army: A history of the IRA
D.G. Boyce and Roger Swift (eds.), Defenders of the Union: A survey of British and Irish Unionism since 1801
M. Cox, A. Guelke, F. Stephen, A farewell to arms? From long war to long peace in Northern Ireland
B. Campbell, L. McKeown, F. O’Hagan, Nor meekly serve my time
Richard English, Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA
Michael Farrell, Arming the Protestants
Robert Fisk, In time of war: Ireland, Ulster and the price of neutrality, 1939-1945
--- The point of no return: The strike which broke the British in Ulster
W.D. Flackes, Northern Ireland: A political directory, 1968-99
David Harkness, Northern Ireland since 1920
Tony Harnden, *Bandit country*
Mary Harris, *The Catholic Church and the foundation of the Northern Irish State*
Thomas Hennesssey, *A history of Northern Ireland 1920-1996*
A.C. Hepburn, *The conflict of nationality in modern Ireland*
James Loughlan, *The Ulster question since 1945*
Cathal McCall, *Identity in Northern Ireland*
Eamon McCann, *War and an Irish town*
Fearghal McGarry (ed.), *Republicanism in Modern Ireland*
David McKitterick, *Lost lives*
Nicholas Manseragh, *The unresolved question: The Anglo-Irish settlement and its undoing, 1912-72*
David Miller, *Rethinking Northern Ireland: Culture, ideology and colonialism*
Alan O’Day and Neil Fleming, *The Palgrave companion to Northern Irish history*
Niall O’Dochartaigh, *From civil rights to armalites: Derry and the birth of the Irish troubles*
Brendan O’Leary and John McGarry, *The politics of antagonism: Understanding Northern Ireland*
Alan Parkinson, *Belfast’s unholy war: The troubles of the 1920s*
B. Rolston and D. Miller, *War and words*
Paul Routledge, *John Hume: a biography*
Joseph Ruane and Jennifer Todd (eds), *The dynamics of conflict in Northern Ireland*
M.L.R. Smith, *Fighting for Ireland: The military strategy of the Irish republican movement*
Peter Taylor, *Behind the mask: The IRA and Sinn Fein—Loyalists: war and peace in Northern Ireland*
Diane Urquhart, *Women in Ulster politics 1890-1940*
Paul Ward, *Unionism in the British Isles*
Graham Walker, *A history of the Ulster Unionist Party: Protest, pragmatism and pessimism*
Sabine Wichert, *Northern Ireland since 1945*
John White, *Interpreting Northern Ireland*

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is based on one three-hour degree examination at 100% of the final assessment.

Feedback on all assessment should be timely and normally provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen – Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.
PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAYS
n/a

EXERCISES, IF APPLICABLE

Each student will be required to make a 30-minute presentation on an assigned document. Although feedback will be provided, this presentation is formative in nature.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Admin Office [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (For instructions please see [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.
Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark. N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.

EXAMINATION
Information on how the examination paper will be structured, if necessary, such as how many questions, etc. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/