SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

HI4015: 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
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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 loyalty; 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.

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 presentation

Week 7

S13 The ballot box and the armalite

S14 Seminar presentation

Week 8

S15 Good Friday

S16 Seminar Presentation

Week 9

S17 Good Friday

S18 Seminar presentation

Week 10

S19 Peace or Pause?

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*
Brian Cliff and Eibhear Walshe (eds.), *Representing the Troubles: Texts and images, 1970-2000*
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 Hennessy, *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 McKittrick, *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.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*
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
Students will write a formative essay of between 2500-3000 words on an assigned primary text, which shall form the basis of a seminar discussion led by the student.

EXERCISES, IF APPLICABLE
GROUP PROJECT, IF APPLICABLE
Students shall lead a single one-hour seminar, presenting their analysis on an assigned primary source and facilitating a discussion on it. This is formative.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
The formative essays are due on the date of the assigned seminar, beginning in Week Six. Seminars will be assigned by alphabetical order.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

Electronic Copy:  One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.
Hard Copy:  One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy 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 Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.
EXAMINATION

The degree examination will be held in December. Its purpose is to test your ability to analyse and synthesise material covered in the course through essays. The examination will be three hours during which students will write on three questions, one of which will cover source extracts (gobbets). 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/.

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