

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI4001 – SPECIAL SUBJECT
THE 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

Dr Colin Barr (c.barr@abdn.ac.uk)

Room: CA203; tel: 01224 272219

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm and by appointment

Discipline Administration

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TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see [MyAberdeen](#)

Students can 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 covered include the origins, nature, and organisation of Northern Ireland; the Ulster Unionist Party; Irish nationalism, and its variants; the civil rights movement; the IRA and Provisional IRA; paramilitary and political loyalism; the Republic of Ireland and Irish republicanism; the United Kingdom and Ulster loyalism; counter-insurgency tactics; the hunger strikes; the 'Long War'; the origins of the peace process; the Good Friday agreement and its aftermath; dissident republicanism.

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, both written and visual.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical and comparative appreciation of a diverse and complex series of issues which had and still have an enduring influence on the whole of the British Isles, including an understanding of the Historiography of the Troubles;
- Evaluate a wide range of primary and secondary materials, including written and visual sources of information;
- Identify and deploy a wide range of primary sources in their research and writing;
- Utilize a variety of methodologies to interpret both broad trends within 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;
 - Develop presentational skills.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week One

S1 Introduction. Aims and objectives of Special Subjects. Overview of the course and allocation of seminar papers/documents.

S2 The historiography of Ireland and the Irish Troubles.

Week Two

S3 The Calm Before the Storm

S4 The Civil Rights Movement

Week Three

S5 The Rise of the Provisionals

S6 The Loyalist Response

Week Four

S7 The British Response and the Irish Dilemma

S8 Group Document – The Widgery Report

Week Five

S9 Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in an Urban Context

S10 Group Document – The Saville Report

Week Six

S11 The ideology and organisation of republicanism

S12 Seminar Presentations 1 and 2

Week Seven

S13 The ballot box and the armalite

S14 Seminar Presentations 3 and 4

Week Eight

S15 Good Friday

S16 Seminar Presentations 5 and 6

Week Nine

S17 Seminar Presentation 7

S18 Seminar Presentations 8 and 9

Week Ten

S19 Seminar Presentation 10

S20 Seminar Presentations 11 and 12

Week Eleven

S21 Seminar Presentation 13

S22 Seminar Presentations 14 and 15

SECONDARY READING

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 through application to the course co-ordinator. In addition to this find 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, *Voices 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.

Recommended Readings:

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 and F. Stephen, *A farewell to arms? From long war to long peace in Northern Ireland*

B. Campbell, L. McKeown, and 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*

Alan Greer, 'Sir James Craig and the construction of the Parliaments Buildings at Stormont', in *IHS* vol. 31, no.123 (1999)

David Harkness, *Northern Ireland since 1920*

Mary Harris, *The Catholic Church and the foundation of the Northern Irish State*

Thomas Hennessey, *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*

Michael McGrath, 'The narrow road: Harry Midgley and Catholic schools in Northern Ireland' in *IHS* vol.30, no.119 (1997)

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*

Enda Staunton, "The boundary commission debacle: Aftermath and implications", *History Ireland* 5:2 (1996)

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.

There will also be a mandatory presentation (30 minutes) of primary source documents and student-led discussion (30 minutes) of those documents which will be formative.

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.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

EXAMINATION

The exam last 3 hours and comes in the form of: 1 x Gobbet Question and 2 x Essay-style responses. **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/>.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.