

HIST 2991

The Road to Irish Independence

John Ware

(Mornings, 9:30-11:45)

Content

An overview of Irish history in the 19th and 20th centuries, concentrating on the pivotal events of 1912-1923.

The module aims not just to introduce the student to the complex and contentious issues of modern Irish history, but to impart as much as possible the skills and disciplines necessary to the study of history in general. Central to both of these aims is a reliance on the primary evidence, which will be largely documentary, but will also include literary and artistic sources.

The classes will take the form of short lectures, followed by discussion of relevant primary sources. The structure of the course will follow the chronological narrative of history, and will emphasise the following themes:

- Conquest and Union: the historical background
- The Green Flag: the rise of Irish nationalism
- Famine and Diaspora: politicising bitterness
- Violence *versus* constitutionalism, Republic *versus* Home Rule
- The Cultural Revival: defining a national identity
- The Home Rule Crisis: breaking the Union
- The First World War: fighting for the Union
- 1916: the triumph of failure
- The War of Independence
- The Treaty: a debt to history
- Troubles and emergencies: independent Ireland from 1922
- The Six Counties: the unfinished business

Course expectations

Students should read the materials prescribed for the module (provided in class), attend all classes and participate in class discussions.

In preparation, students should give themselves a grounding in the overall narrative of Irish history. Thomas Bartlett, *Ireland: a History*, (Cambridge 2010)¹ is the recommended reading for this.

Students should also write a short preliminary essay (1,000-1,500 words) outlining their understanding of Irish history – however incomplete, misinformed or even prejudiced that might be, and based either on their reading or on nothing more than their general knowledge and impressions. The course will reveal how much that knowledge and those impressions are changed. (Essays to be submitted by email to john.ware@ucc.ie before 15th June 2020.)

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

Understand the essentials of modern Irish history;

Take a balanced view of the opposing perspectives of the Irish historical debate;

Present an informed argument based on historical evidence;

Evaluate and appreciate primary historical material in all its forms.

Course Assessment

Students are required to participate in class discussion, give a class presentation, and write one 2,500-word essay. The presentation will be delivered in class and is to be an individual rather than a group effort. The essay is due for the last day of the program and feedback will be provided soon afterward by email.

Grading:

Class participation and attendance: 30%

Class presentation: 30%

Written Assignment: 40%

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. UNO allows one excused absence. Any other absences will affect the final grade by 10%. Three unexcused absences will drop you from the class and result in grade F.

John Ware
School of History
University College Cork
john.ware@ucc.ie

¹ Thomas Bartlett, *Ireland: a History*, (Cambridge University Press 2010), ISBN 978-1107422346