Overview:

The aim of this course is to provide the student with knowledge of the major events, themes and social forces in modern Irish history. When the course begins Ireland was part of the United Kingdom, the centre of the world’s most powerful empire. We will examine the process of how part of Ireland gained independence, looking especially at the context for the 1916 Easter Rising, why Ireland was partitioned and the impact of conflict on religious groups, women and social classes. The two new states in Ireland are examined, as is the relationship between church and state and ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ in the divided island. The eruption and course of the modern northern Irish conflict (1969-1998) is examined as are the years of the ‘Celtic Tiger’ (2000-2008). The cultural impact of these conflicts is examined through the use of film and documentary resources. The course will also involve a visit to an exhibition connected to the Irish revolution.

Evaluation:

• **Attendance:** All students are expected to attend class and to arrive punctually. An attendance sheet will circulate at the beginning of each class. If you know you are going to miss class, for a valid reason, please email in advance, as numerous unexplained absences will affect your final grade. (5%)

• **Papers & Test:** Students will complete two essays and a take-home exam. (95%)

Reading: general works

Diarmaid Ferriter’s *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000* (London, 2004) is a lively account of modern Ireland.

The books below allow for more in-depth study. All of them should be easily accessible at the Trinity College Library. This list only skims the surface—feel free to discover more!

**Course Themes**

**Nationalism and Separatism**

**Home Rule and Unionism**
- P. Collins, (ed) *Nationalism and Unionism, 1885-1921* (Belfast, 1994)

**Labour and War**
- J. Horne, (Ed) *Our War: Ireland and the Great War* (Dublin, 2009)
War and Rebellion

T. Dorgan & M. Ni Dhonnchada, *Revising the Rising* (Derry, 1991)
P. Yeates, *Dublin: a City in Turmoil* (Dublin, 2012)

The Easter Rising
The shelves of book stores are creaking at the moment with 1916 titles: here are a few:

The Royal Irish Academy’s *1916 Portraits and Lives* is a collection of short biographies of 42 men and women connected to the Rising. It can be downloaded as a free e-book. The 1916 Lives series edited by Lorcan Collins and Ruan O’Donnell, sixteen separate biographies of the executed leaders, are readable introductions. Also look out for *The Revolution Papers*, available in
newsagents, which are a weekly guide to the issues at stake between 1916-49, with sample contemporary documents.

**Revolution and Treaty**

- M. Hopkinson, *The Irish War of Independence* (Dublin, 2002)
- M. Hopkinson, *Green against Green: the Irish Civil War* (Dublin, 1988)
- P.S. O’Hegarty, *The Victory of Sinn Fein* (Dublin, 1924)
- T. Barry, *Guerrilla Days in Ireland* (Dublin, 1949)
- C.S. Andrews, *Dublin Made Me* (Dublin, 1979)
- J. Borgonovo, *The Dynamics of War: Cork City 1916-1918* (Cork, 2013)
- D.G. Boyce (ed.), *The Revolution in Ireland, 1879–1923* (Dublin, 1988)
- D. Fitzpatrick, (Ed) *Terror in Ireland* (Dublin, 2012)

**Civil War and Partition**

- J.M. Regan, *The Irish Counter Revolution 1921-36* (Dublin, 1999)
From Free State to Republic
J. Bowman, De Valera and the Ulster Question 1917-23 (Oxford, 1982)
C. Wills, That Neutral Island (London, 2007)
M. Cronin, The Blueshirts and Irish Politics (Dublin, 1997)
D. Keogh & M. O’Driscoll, Ireland in World War Two (Cork, 2004)
D. O’Driscceoil, Censorship in Ireland, 1939-45 (Cork, 1996)
F. McGarry, Irish Politics and the Spanish Civil War (Cork, 1999)
M. Cronin & J. Regan, Ireland: the Politics of Independence (Basingstoke, 2000)
P. Murray, Oracles of God: the Roman Catholic Church and Irish Politics
(Dublin, 2000)
J.A. Murphy (ed) De Valera and His Times (Cork, 1983)
N. Puirseil, The Irish Labour Party: a History (Dublin, 2007)
B. Evans, Ireland during the Second World War (Manchester, 2014)

Northern Ireland: Consolidation
A. Parkinson, Belfast’s Unholy War (Dublin, 2004)
J. McDermott, Northern Divisions: the old IRA and the Belfast Pogroms
(Belfast, 2001)
Jonathon Bardon, A History of Ulster (1992)
B. Follis, A State under Siege (Oxford, 1995)
B Purdie, Politics in the Streets (Belfast, 1990)
G. Adams, Before the Dawn (New York, 1996)
P. Buckland, The Factory of Grievances: devolved government in Northern
Ireland, 1921–39 (1979)

From stagnation to the ‘best of decades.’
F. Tobin, The Best of Decades: Ireland in the 1960s
D. Keogh etc Ireland in the 1950s: the Lost Decade (Cork, 2004)
P. Bew & H. Patterson, Sean Lemass and the Making of Modern Ireland (Dublin, 1982)
J. Horgan, Noel Browne: Passionate Outsider (Dublin, 1997)
E. McDermott, Clann na Poblachta, (Cork, 1998)
L. Fuller, Irish Catholicism since 1950 (Dublin, 2002)
T. Garvin, Preventing the Future (Dublin, 2004)
E. O’Connor, A Labour History of Ireland (Dublin, 2012)

The ‘Troubles’ 1969-1998
B. Hanley, The IRA: a Documentary History (Dublin, 2010)
G. Adams, Hope and History (Kerry, 1996)
G. FitzGerald, All in a Life (Dublin, 1991)
E. McCann, War and an Irish Town (London, 1974)
F. O’Connor, In Search of a State: Catholics in Northern Ireland (Dublin, 1993)
S. McKay, Northern Protestants: an Unsettled People (Belfast, 2000)
P. Mulroe, Bombs, bullets and the border (Dublin, 2017).
P. O’Malley, The Uncivil Wars: Ireland Today (Belfast, 1980)
E. Moloney & A. Pollock, Paisley (Dublin, 1986)
D. Beresford, Ten Men Dead (London, 1987)
F. O’Toole, The Lie of the Land (London, 1997)
J. Hume, A New Ireland (Boulder, 1996)
M. Farrell, Twenty Years On (Kerry, 1988)
M.J. Bric etc, From Political Violence to Negotiated Settlement (Dublin, 2004)
J. Smyth (Ed), Remembering the Troubles: Contesting the Recent Past in Northern Ireland (Notre Dame, 2017).

A comprehensive source of material on the conflict in Northern Ireland is accessible on the CAIN website http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/bibdbs/index.html
Modern Ireland
L. Connolly & T. O’Toole (Eds), Documenting Irish Feminisms: the second wave (Dublin, 2005).
M. Daly, Sixties Ireland (Cambridge, 2016).
D. Ferriter, Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland (London, 2010).
E. Sweeney, Down, Down, Deeper and Down: Ireland in the 70s and 80s (Dublin, 2010).
H. Patterson, Ireland since 1939: the Persistence of Conflict (Dublin, 2006)

Visual Sources

Michael Collins (1996)
The Wind that Shakes the Barley (2006)
Hunger (2008)
Breakfast on Pluto (2006)