

Professor Marjorie Murphy
Trotter 210
X8091

Fall Semester, 2013
Wed-Thur 2:30-4 pm
Swarthmore College

HISTORY 90 B: Irish History

From Ring Forts to old Eskers, this course begins with the melting of the Ice Cap and goes all the way to the Troubles. We begin with considerations of climate, geography and language moving on to the monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. After a careful consideration of Celtic origins we move on to the arrival of Christianity and the Pelegrian Crisis. After that we follow the wave of invasions, the Vikings and Normans on to the Tudors. After Elizabeth we explore the legacy of Cromwell and the Plantation system on Ireland leading up to the Famine. The slow recovery to the discontent expressed in the Land Leagues, Parliament and the Celtic revival act as prelude to the Uprising of 1916 and from this to the Civil War and the bid for Independence. The Irish malaise lingered after World War 2 as Ireland looked to the outside world for some relief and found it in two meaningful opportunities: Civil Rights and Economic Union. The pursuit of these two issues led again to another double-edged sword: the Celtic Tiger and the Troubles.

Required Books:

John O'Beirne Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland, second edition*
Thomas Kinsella, translator, *The Tain* Oxford University Press
Sean Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages*
Padraig Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland 1603-1727*
Peter Duffy, *The Killing of Major Denis Mahon: A Mystery of Old Ireland*
Peter DeRosa, *Rebels: The Irish Rising of 1916*

Papers and Assignments: Readings are on Moodle and in texts ordered for you, they are an essential part of the course. There is a Midterm October 10th (30%) and Final Examintion (Take Home)(40%) and three five page papers (10%): September 19th, the Tain Bo; The Land Leagues and Kilmainham goal. Discussion sessions and attendance are part of the grade as well.

Requirements: Reading the weekly reading material, preparing carefully for class and participation in class discussions are also part of the requirement. Failure to attend more than three classes will cost one half grade for each additional absence. Students who have a history of incompletes are strongly encouraged not take this course; I do not do incompletes. There are no late papers in this course. Attendance is required, this is a departmental rule: your grade will go down if you miss classes. You may use the computer to take notes in class, but if I catch you surfing the net, emailing or doing anything other than note taking, the privilege will be revoked.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs.

Schedule of Classes, Assignments, Exams

Week 1

September 3 Introductions

Read for Thursday: Lawrence Flanagan, *Ancient Ireland*, ch. 3-5; Daibhi O Croinin, *A New History of Ireland*, ch. 3-5 by M. J. O’Kelly, “Ireland before 3,000 BC,” “Neolithic Ireland,” and Bronze Age Ireland”

John O’Beirne Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland*, ch. 1

September 5 Lecture: Climate, Geography and Change

Read for Tuesday: Liam MacUstin, *Exploring Newgrange*, ch., 8; M. J. O’Kelly, *Newgrange*, ch. 2-3. Thomas Kinsella, *The Tain Bo Cuailnge*, p.,52-58
Bryan Sykes, *Saxons, Vikings and Celts*, ch. 1.2,8&9.

Week 2

September 10 “Newgrange”

Read for Thursday: Daibhi O’Croinin, “Ireland: 400 to 800 AD” and Barry Rafferty, “Iron Age Ireland,” ch. 6&7 in Daibhi O’Croinin, *A New History of Ireland*.

John Koch & Barry Cunliffe., *Celtic from the West*, Ch.8, epilogue; Thomas Kinsella, *The Tain Bo Cuailnge*, pp1-50

September 12 “Celtic from the West”

Read for Tuesday

Nancy Edwards, *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*, ch. 2,3 and 6.

Lisa Bitel, *Isle of the Saints*, ch. 1,2&3. Thomas Kinsella, *The Tain Bo Cuailnge*, pp 51-156. Philip Freeman, *St Patrick of Ireland*, Ch 7&12

Week 3

September 17 “St. Patrick and Irish Expansion”

Thomas Kinsella, *The Tain Bo Cuailnge*, finish

September 19 Discussion of the Tain Bo

Read for Tuesday: Sean Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages*, ch. 1-4; Richard Roche, *The Norman Invasion of Ireland*, Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland*, ch. 2

Week 4

September 24 “The Vikings and the High King, Brian Boru”
Read for Thursday: Sean Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages*, finish
Richard Roche, *The Norman Invasion of Ireland*, 6,10,14-17

September 26 “The Norman Lords: Gaelic, French or English?”
Discussion of Duffy
Padraig Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland 1603-1727*; ch. 1-2
M.Perceval-Maxwell, *The Outbreak of the Irish Rebellion of 1640*, ch. 1-3;5,9-11

Week 5

October 1 “Nine Years and the Flight of the Earls”
Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland*, ch. 3.
Padraig Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland 1603-1727* ch 3-4
Cyril Falls, *Elizabeth’s Irish wars* ch 1-3. 9&10.

October 3 “The Tudors in Ireland”
Ranelagh, *A Short History of Ireland*, ch. 4
Padraig Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland 1603-1727*, ch 5-8

Week 6

October 8 “Cromwell, 1641”
Padraig Lenihan, *Consolidating Conquest: Ireland 1603-1727*, ch 9-11

Document Discussion

October 10 Midterm Examination

Week 7

October 11-20 October Break

Week 8

October 22 “The Legacy of Wolfstone’s United Irishmen”

Raneleigh, *A Short History of Ireland*, ch 5& 6
T. W. Moody and V.E. Vaughan, *A New History of Ireland, 1691-1800*, ch. VIII, IX, XI
and XX
Ciaran O’Murchadha, *The Great Famine, Prologue*, Ch., 1-4,6-7 &9
Tim Pat Coogan, *The Famine Plot*, Ch. 1, 2 6-8.

October 24 “The Famine”
Peter Duffy, *The Killing of Major Denis Mahon: A Mystery of Old Ireland*,Ch. 1-8
Geroid O Tuathaigh, *Ireland Before the Famine, 1898-1848*, ch. 1-3.

Week 9

October 29 “The Poor House and Coffin Ships”
Peter Duffy, *The Killing of Major Denis Mahon: A Mystery of Old Ireland (finish)*
Owen McGee, *The Irish Republican Brotherhood, 1-3;9-10.*

October 31 “Out of Ireland: Irish Emmigration”
Documents on the Land League
W. E. Vaughan, *A New History of Ireland, V*; James S. Donolly, “Landlords and Tenants,” Ch. XVI; R.V. Comerford, “Churchmen, Tenants and Independent Opposition,” ch. XXI; W.E. Vaughan, “Gladstone’s First Irish Enterprise,” R.V. Comerford, ch. XXIII.

Week 10

November 5 “Land War: 1879-1903”

Owen McGee, *The Irish Republican Brotherhood, Ch. 1-3, 9 & 10*
W.E. Vaughan, *The New History of Ireland, Vol 5-6*; Comerford, *introduction*;
Comerford, “The Land War and the Politics of Distress, 1877-1882”, ch. II;
Comerford, “The Parnell Era, 1883-1891,” ch. III; F,S, L. Lyons. “The Aftermath of Parnell,” ch. IV

November 7 The Crisis: 1903-1921
Peter DeRosa, *Rebels: The Irish Uprising of 1916*
Part 1
W. E. Vaughan, *A New History of Ireland, Vol. VI* Lyons, “The Developing Crisis,” 1907-1914,” ch. VI; L.P. Curtis, “Ireland in 1914,” ch. VII; Lyons, “The Rising and After, ch. IX; Lyons, “The New Nationalism, 1916-1918;” ch. X; “The War of Independence, 1919-1921,” ch. XI.
Raneleigh, *A Short History of Ireland, ch., 7*
Peter DeRosa, *Rebels: The Irish Uprising of 1916, finish.*

Week 11

November 12 Celtic Revival
W. E. Vaughan, *A New History of Ireland, Vol. VI*, Vivian Mercier, “ “Literature in English,” ch. XIII; Brian O Cuiv, “Irish Language and Literature, 1845-1921.” Ch. XIV
Raneleigh, *A Short History of Ireland, ch., 8*
J.J. Lee, *Ireland: 1912-1985, ch,1,*

November 14 Discussion: 1916
Raneleigh, *A Short History of Ireland, ch., 9*

Week 12

November 19 Civil War: Michael Collins
Documents on Kilmainham goal
J.J. Lee, *Ireland: 1912-1985, ch 2*
Ulick O'Connor, *Michael Collins: The Troubles*

November 21 Independence (movie continued)
J.J. Lee, *Ireland: 1912-1985, ch 3*

Week 13

November 26 Interwar: Man of Aran
J.J. Lee, *Ireland: 1912-1985, ch 5*

Week 14

December 3 Civil Rights and Troubles
Raneleigh, *A Short History of Ireland* ch 10-11
J.J. Lee, *Ireland: 1912-1985, 7-8*
Richard English, *The Armed Struggle of the IRA, Part 2, 3,4.5.6. &8.*

December 5th Kilmainham Papers Due

Week 15

December 10 A View from the Otherside

Final Exam: Papers Due December 18th.