

POLS 492/592, CJUS 492/592, HIST 492/592

Radicalism and Revolution, An Ireland Study Abroad Course

University of South Dakota
Course Syllabus

Department of Political Science
Summer 2015

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Course Description

The aphorism originally voiced by Gerald Seymour, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" is often repeated in today's political dialogue. Radicalism and revolution, particularly as they intersect with activities we recognize as terrorism, are complex ideas requiring a nuanced and critical approach to understanding. In today's world, terrorism often dominates the media, but few attempt to think critically about the origins and evolution of radicalist groups over the course of history. What is radicalism? What is terrorism? Why do groups take up arms against fellow civilians to achieve political change? Why do individuals engage in acts of terrorism? What explains the tactical choices of revolutionary groups? How do these political struggles end? In order to address these questions, the course combines an historical perspective with contemporary analysis of the political history of Ireland with a particular focus on the Irish War of Independence in the early 20th century, the "Troubles" of Northern Ireland in the 1970's and 80's, and the current iterations of the IRA and Real IRA. This course of study will examine the theoretical and practical elements of radicalism, terrorism, and revolutions in general but with a particular focus in the Irish case. This course will provide a broad theoretical framework to consider these issues as well as an applied international experience from which students can draw gain greater insight.

Structure of the Class

The substance of the course will be divided into three modules:

Module 1: Three scheduled class sections to be completed in the Spring semester prior to departure for Ireland. If due to an emergency you cannot make one of these class sessions you will need to make alternative arrangements with the instructor. Students are also required to enroll in the D2L section which has been created for this course and are encouraged to join the related Facebook group if able. The readings listed for each class session should be completed prior to that scheduled class date. *Exact class dates have yet to be determined.

***Participation in Module 1 is a mandatory prerequisite for participation in Module 2.**

Module 2: A 15 day tour of Ireland and Northern Ireland including Dublin, Killarney, Galway, Omagh, Derry and Belfast (Tour dates: May 12-May 27, 2015). During the trip students will be required to keep a journal and respond to discussion questions on a daily basis. The journal will be submitted for grading upon our return.

Module 3: A one day class reunion, before the end of Summer Session 2, in which students will present their research report and enhanced podcast. All students taking the course for credit are required to complete a biographical research paper on an individual involved in the Irish War for Independence (including the Easter Rising), or the Troubles in Northern Ireland. In addition the research paper you will create a video presentation of your findings. Exact specifications for this project will be provided during the first class session of Module 1.

Required Texts:

The following textbooks are required for the course and can be purchased online through Amazon.com or another vendor of your choice. There will be additional readings required as a part of the course that will be provided by the instructor and available under the Contents tab on D2L.

Moody, T.W. et al. 2012. *The Course of Irish History*. Roberts Rinehart. 5th Edition. 2012. 978-1570984495.

McKittrick, David. 2002. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. New Amsterdam Books. 978-1561310708

Richardson, Louise. 2007. *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat*. Random House. 978-0812975444

Toolis, Kevin. 1997. *Rebel Hearts: Journeys Within the IRA's Soul*. St. Martin's Griffen. 978-0312156329.

DVDs and Videos

(We will watch these as a part of the class sessions)

Paradise Now

The Wind that Shakes the Barley

Assignments and Grading

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Pre-trip seminar participation | 20% |
| Trip Journal | 40% |
| Research and Podcast | 40% |

Course Schedule:

Day 1

Section 1: A Brief Course in Irish History

Section 2: The Easter Rising and War of Irish Independence

Required Reading

Moody et al. (entire)

Day 2

Section 3: Radicalism, Revolution, and Terrorism

Section 4: Causes of Terrorism

Section 5: The Role of Religion and Culture

Section 6: Paradise Now

Required Reading

Richardson (entire)

Other selected readings (on D2L)

Day 3:

Section 7: Security versus Liberty and the Ethical Dimensions of Counterterrorism

Section 8: The IRA and the Troubles

Section 9: Current political landscape in Northern Ireland

Section 9: The Wind that Shakes the Barley

Required Reading

McKittrick (entire)

Toolis (entire)

“Here to Stay,” The Rising Threat of Violent Dissident Republicanism in Northern Ireland.” (Available on D2L)

“The Dynamics of Nationalist terrorism: ETA and the IRA.” (Available on D2L)

Recommended reading: though not required for the course, I will also provide you with access to a larger array of readings regarding various aspects of Terrorism and Counterterrorism that will increase your depth of knowledge and may be useful for your papers. I will also provide recommendations for resources about specific individuals for your biographies.

University and College Policies

“Freedom in Learning. Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college that offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.”

USD College of Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook. No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

Disability Accommodation

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class or as soon as possible after the diagnosis of a disability. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

Ernetta L. Fox, Director
Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center
(605)677-6389
Web Site: www.usd.edu/ds
E-mail: disabilityservices@usd.edu

Please note: if your home institution is not the University of South Dakota but one of the other South Dakota Board of Regents institutions (e.g., SDSU, SDSMT, BHSU, NSU, DSU), you should work with the disability services coordinator at your home institution.