

PSCI 3700.003, Politics of Irelandⁱ

Department of Political Science, University of North Texas
MWF 9.00-9.50a, WH 114, learn.unt.edu/
Syllabus, spring 2012

Instructor Information

Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon

Office: WH 155; Mailbox: WH 125

Office Hours: MW 10.00-11.00a, W 1.00-2.00p; by appt

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Being in Touch

My office hours are listed above, but I am usually around. Feel free to stop by any time, but understand that on occasion I will be unavailable. If you write me M-F, I should get back to you within 24 hours. If I don't, please feel free to send me a reminder! If you write over the weekend, you may have to wait until Monday for a reply. A note on etiquette: please sign your emails with your name, and please include an appropriate salutation. (Hint: you can't go wrong with "Dear Dr. Oldmixon".)

Course Description and Procedure


This course investigates the politics of Ireland. It begins with an explanation of America's longstanding relationship with Ireland, and then explores the development of Irish political and social identities. The remainder of the semester is focused on the following topics: the relationship between church and state, electoral politics, political institutions, and conflict and cooperation in Northern Ireland.

Class meetings are intended to blend lecture and discussion. If the latter is to prove valuable, you will need to complete the assigned readings on time and to attend class with questions and observations in mind. Students should be aware that lectures are not intended to restate the material that appears in the textbooks, nor will every topic covered in the readings necessarily be discussed in class. Thus, the best way to earn a high grade in this course is to attend class regularly and to complete the assigned readings well before the day of an exam.

Required Readings

Coakley, John and Michael Gallagher, eds. 2010. *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*. New York: Routledge.
McEvoy, Joanne. 2008. *The Politics of Northern Ireland*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Additional readings are available through the library and/or on Blackboard.

Topic and Dates	Reading Assignment and Thought Questions
Introduction January 18	-- 
Ireland and America January 20, 23, 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">McCaffrey, Lawrence. 2004. "Ireland and Irish America: Connections and Disconnections." <i>U.S. Catholic Historian</i> 22(3): 1-18.Guelke, Adrian. 1996. "The United States, Irish Americans and the Northern Ireland Peace Process." <i>International Affairs</i> 72(3): 521-536.
Social and Political Identities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finnegan, Richard B. and Edward T. McCarron. 2000. <i>Ireland: Historical Echoes, Contemporary Politics</i>. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Chapter 1.

January 27, 30, February 1, 3, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolan, Anne. 2006. "Killing and Bloody Sunday, November 1920." <i>The Historical Journal</i> 49: 789-810. • De Valera, Eamon. 1919. "Ireland's Right to Independence." <i>America</i> pp.224-225. • Coakley and Gallagher, Chapters 1, 2
Church and State February 8, 10, 13, 15, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 3 • Inglis, Tom. 2000. "Irish Civil Society: From Church to Media Domination." In <i>Religion and Politics: East-West Contrasts from Contemporary Europe</i>. Eds., Tom Inglis, Zdzislaw Mach, and Rafel Mazanek. Dublin: University College Dublin Press. • Mennell, Stephen, Mitchell Elliott, Paul Stokes, Aoife Rickard, and Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop. 2000. "Protestants in a Catholic State – A Silent Minority in Ireland." In <i>Religion and Politics</i>, pp. 68-85. • Darcy, R. and Michael Laver. 1990. "Referendum Dynamics and the Irish Divorce Amendment." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 54: 1-20.
Electoral Politics February 20, 22, 24, 27, 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley and Gallagher, Chapters 4-6 • O'Malley, Eoin. 2008. "Why is There No Radical Right Party in Ireland?" <i>West European Politics</i> 31: 960-77. •
Governance and Representation March 2, 5, 7, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley and Gallagher, Chapters 7-10
Catch up/Review March 12	--
Midterm March 14	--
International Affairs and Europeanization March 16, 26, 28, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 14 • Chari, Raj and Patrick Bernhagen. 2011. "Financial and Economic Crisis: Explaining the Sunset over the Celtic Tiger." <i>Irish Political Studies</i> • Kennedy, Fiachra and Richard Sinnott. 2007. "Irish Public Opinion toward European Integration" <i>Irish Political Studies</i>
Break March 19, 21, 23	--
Approaches to Conflict in NI April 2, 4, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McEvoy, Chapters 1 and 2
Parties and Paramilitaries April 9, 11, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McEvoy, Chapter 3 • Evans, Geoffrey and Mary Duffy. 1997. "Beyond the Sectarian Divide: The Social Bases and Political Consequences of Nationalist and Unionist Party Competition in Northern Ireland." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 27: 47-81.
The Peace Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McEvoy, Chapters 4-6

April 16, 18, 20	
Devolution April 23, 25, 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McEvoy, Chapters 7 and 8 • Tilley, James, Geoffrey Evans, and Claire Mitchell. 2008. "Consociationalism and the Evolution of Political Cleavages in Northern Ireland, 1989-2004." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 38: 699-717.
Catching up April 30	--
Review May 2	--
Final Exam May 11	8.00-10.00a, in the regular classroom

Grading and Assignments

Final grades are based on the following elements:

Geography Quiz (40 points): This closed book quiz will cover the political geography of Ireland. **(January 30)**

Examinations (200 points, 100 points each exam): Exams will be in class closed book in format. They will include a mixture of objective questions, short answers, and essay questions that cover all the assigned reading (whether discussed in class or not) and any other material (videos, Web presentations) covered in class. It is not necessary to bring blue books. See the schedule for dates.

Film Discussions/Quizzes (120 points): Students will be required to watch about 3 films outside of class, and then participate in BlackBoard discussions of each film. There will be short, in-class, quizzes to make sure students have watched the films.

Research Papers (140 points): Students will be required to write research paper investigating some aspect of Irish politics, such as: women and politics, peace and conflict in Northern Ireland, the role of churches in education, Ireland's relationship with the EU, etc. Students may write these papers in groups of no more than three. Additional information about the research papers will be provided. **(April 30)**

Extra Credit: Students should not expect or ask for extra credit. If extra credit is offered, it is only when it can be made available to everyone in the class. Note the grading criteria, and plan accordingly for your success.

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following schedule:

A = 450-500 points

B = 400-449 points

C = 350-399 points

D = 300-349 points

F = 0-299

Students who participate productively in classroom discussion may earn bonus points at my discretion.

Class Policies and Conduct Expectations

Record Keeping: Check that your grades are recorded properly on Blackboard. Keep all copies of your returned exams and assignments, in order that discrepancies can be demonstrated and corrected. Also, photocopy assignments *before* you turn them in.

Attendance and Excused Absences: Excused absences are absences that result from a verifiable, documented emergency or unavoidable legal or University obligation. Attendance is not factored directly into final grades. However, students who miss class are solely responsible for getting the notes, for all in-class announcements, and for any other consequences of non-attendance.

Make-Up Examinations: Failure to take an exam on time on the scheduled date will normally result in a zero. Make-up examinations are given at the discretion for the instructor, and only for excused absences. Students needing to miss an exam for any reason *must meet with the instructor in person outside of class* to request a make-up. They must provide documentation at least one week prior to the scheduled exam. If that is not possible, students must produce documentation demonstrating the emergent nature of their absence, such as a police report or physician's letter (not a receipt).

Late Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date, unless otherwise noted. If class has started, the assignment will be considered late. Assignments will be penalized a ½ of a letter grade if turned in late but on the due date and a full letter grade for each day thereafter. Please note that assignments may be turned in early. Students should not interrupt class to turn in a late assignment.

Classroom Conduct: Creating a productive and engaging learning environment is based in part on mutual respect and courtesy. All students must treat the instructor, the other students, and the classroom setting with respect. The same is true for the instructor. Therefore:

- Cell phones, pagers, or all other potentially disruptive electronic devices must be silenced. Use of laptops in class is a privilege that I extend for note taking or for in class exercises as directed.
- Students should not send text messages, have side conversations, fall asleep, or read irrelevant materials during class. It's rude and distracting.
- Please note the start and end times for this class. Students should plan to be on time and stay for the entire period. We're all busy, so let's respect each other's time.
- Please show respect for alternative opinions and points of view, listen when either the instructor or a fellow student is speaking to the class, and refrain from insulting language and gestures.
- Please note that expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
- Students who violate the standards of behavior in the UNT Student Handbookⁱⁱ or are otherwise disruptive are subject to an array of sanctions, such as dismissal from class, grade reduction, and referral to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Exam Conduct: During exams, please observe/note the following rules: (1) no caps with brims, earphones/headphones, or sunglasses; (2) you may not answer your phone or even take it out to silence it during the exam (you cannot touch your phone, period); (3) students arriving late will not be permitted to take the exam; (4) all notes must be hidden from view (if I see notes that are visible to you or another student, I will assume you are cheating).

Religious Holidays

In accordance with UNT Policy 15.2.5, students will be excused from class or other activities for the observance of religious holidays, for religions whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence.

Statement of ADA Compliance

In accordance with UNT Policy 18.1.14, the Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning by the second week of classes.)

Academic Integrity

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

ⁱ The instructor reserves the right to emend this syllabus at her discretion.

ⁱⁱ See http://conduct.unt.edu/student_conduct