



History – Subject Introductory Information

Introduction

Welcome to History!

- **A general introduction to the subject.**

History is the study of the past, but it is incredibly relevant to our lives today. As a student of History at NUI Galway, you will learn about what happened in the past in Ireland and in other parts of Europe and the world, and you will also be trained in techniques that are invaluable in numerous career paths. You will learn how to source information in libraries, archives and on the internet, how to test the accuracy of a claim against the available evidence, and how to formulate a coherent argument and express it effectively - all skills indispensable in any job.

- **What are the main themes that will be covered over the three/four years of the programme**

In course of your three/four years in History, you will explore the local and the global past, focusing on the histories of Ireland, Britain, continental Europe, North America, Australasia and Africa. You will study a wide variety of themes such as nationalism, colonialism, slavery, childhood, gender, war, and epidemics; and many different time periods, from the Middle Ages to the end of the Twentieth Century, with topics including, for example, the Crusades, the Reformation, the American Civil War, Victorian Britain, the First World War, Nazi Germany, Modern Ireland, and many others.

- **What will be the focus of first year**

There are four modules in first year history covering a wide range of time periods. We begin by looking at 'Europe & Ireland from 1789-1918' and, in semester 2, move back to look at the Medieval period, and in particular, Ireland in the Medieval World. Our final section explores Europe in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, or, 'the dawn of modernity'. These topics are all underpinned by our Skills for Historians tutorial classes, which provide students with the knowledge and the skills necessary to 'do History'.

- **Why might students decide to take this subject?**

History and historical research are incredibly relevant to how we view the world. We examine different societies, addressing themes of religion, war, industrialisation, emigration and much more through the lens of class, gender, ethnicity and geography. If you are interested in the world around you, you will be interested in studying History.

- **What subjects might be complementary to this subject?**

There are a huge range of complimentary students, including but not reserved to Law, Sociology and Politics, Geography, Computer Science, Classics, Archaeology, Languages, English, Creative Arts, Philosophy.

- **How might this subject relate to what you have studied at second level?**

While some students may have studied History at second level, there is no need to have done so as we address all the skills and topics from the beginning, assuming no prior knowledge.

- **How might this subject relate to current events in society?**

If we look at the current Covid-19 Pandemic, the history of the 'Spanish Flu', humanitarianism and other international crises are incredibly applicable – be that from a public health perspective, and economic perspective or a political perspective. As 2020 has shown us, there are many fractures and crises that can occur in a short timeframe; looking at the past, we can address these issues in a clear and engaging manner.

Structure of the Programme

- **Overall structure of the subject over the three/four years of the programme.**

In the First Year, there is a compulsory year-long course that introduces students to Medieval, Early Modern and Modern Ireland and Europe and to the skills historians use in their work. In the Second Year, students are required to select a combination of Medieval, Early Modern and Modern History courses, choosing from a suite that includes both large lecture courses on broad themes (for example, Medieval Europe or Victorian Britain), and also small tutorial groups taught in Colloquia on specific subjects (for example, The American Civil War or Ireland in the 1950s). In Final Year, students choose, according to their preferences in terms of topic and area, from large lectures courses on particular time periods (for example, Nazi Germany or The Northern Ireland Problem), or from small Seminars on very specific topics (for example, Vichy France or Famine in Ireland).

- **Which modules will be available in First Year**

Lecture Module: HI1103 Europe & Ireland 1789-1918

Section A: Ireland, 1789-1918, Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley

Nineteenth century Ireland was a period of intense change and transformation for large sections of Irish society. Bookended by revolutionary events, this module will examine the social, economic and political developments in Ireland from 1789 to 1918. Intensifying administration (schools, police, hospitals), growing institutionalisation, changing roles for women, emigration, family change, expanding class structures and modernising living standards are examined against a backdrop of major political developments including growing nationalism, land agitation and unionism. Situating Ireland within a global context, these events and experiences will be addressed using a wide array of sources and tools to demonstrate the importance of 'the long nineteenth century'.

Section B: Europe, 1789-1918, Dr Kevin O'Sullivan

Europe was transformed in the period from the French Revolution to the First World War. This section of the module explores those changes, and their impact on the individuals and communities who lived through them. It begins by examining the revolutionary ideas of the late eighteenth century and their influence on Europe, before analysing how industrialisation, cultural and social change, and the rise of new political ideas changed the continent in the century that followed. This section of the module ends by situating Europe within a global context, from the expansion of its empires to the experience of global war.

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Tutorial Module: HISK1101: Skills for Historians 1

In this module, students begin to engage with primary source material and develop a critical awareness of historical scholarship with a view to developing their own writing and presentation skills. You will learn how to locate different types of historical sources and presentations, to analyse them critically, and to present this analysis in a written format. The module will explore the following topics: reading and understanding scholarly articles, note taking, digital resources and historical debates.

Lecture Module: HI1104 Europe: From Medieval to Modern

Section A: Ireland in the Early Medieval World, Dr Chris Doyle

In the 5th century AD, as the Roman Empire collapsed across Western Europe, Ireland emerged as a leading centre of Christian culture and learning. This is all the more remarkable since Ireland had long been perceived by Graeco-Roman civilization as a savage, alien place, inhabited by fierce cannibals and mythical monsters. While the Roman West disintegrated into competing barbarian kingdoms, ruled by barbarian warlords, Ireland adopted Christianity and the island's status as a light of civilization grew throughout Europe and beyond. This module explores social, cultural, political, and religious developments in Ireland from the 2nd to the 8th century AD.

Lecture Modules: HI1104 Europe: From Medieval to Modern

Europe in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: The Dawn of Modernity?

Over the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, European society experienced political, social, cultural, and economic changes that were so profound that historians suggest it moved from medieval to early modern civilisation. In this section of the module, we examine and evaluate the pros and cons of this argument under the themes of knowledge, belief, world encounters, and governing. Topics include the Reformations, witchcraft, the scientific revolution, early imperialism and empire, trade and colonisation, state formation, political rivalries and interstate wars.

Tutorial Module: HISK1102: Skills for Historians 2

This module continues from HISK1101, exploring primary sources from the Medieval and Early Modern period and engaging with a wide array of historical documents. Writing skills is a particular focus, as is the group presentation. Both of these will be assessed during the module.

Semester 1	Semester 2
HI1103 Europe & Ireland 1789-1918 (Lecture Module, 3x1hr per week) Section A (Ireland) runs from weeks 1-6 Section B (Europe) runs from weeks 6-12	HI1104 Europe: From Medieval to Modern (Lecture Module, 3x1hr per week) Section A (Medieval) runs from week 1-6 Section B (Early Modern) runs from weeks 6-12
HISK1101 Skills for Historians 1 (Tutorial Module, 2x1hr per week) Sign-up for tutorials 28 Sept 2020	HISK1102 Skills for Historians 2 (Tutorial Module, 2x1hr per week) Same tutorial group as Semester 1.

- http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/history-philosophy/disciplines-centres/history/undergraduate-courses/history_firststarts/

Online Learning and Teaching

- **Outline of the discipline's approach to online learning and teaching over the coming academic year.**

History's approach for Semester 1 is to provide as much as 30% face to face teaching with the rest of the teaching being provided online. History's approach for Semester 2 will be the same, unless there are changes in relation to Public Health conditions and advice.

- **What activities will take place on online and on-campus**

Regarding activities, in Semester 1, lectures will be online, while half of all small-group teaching (Tutorials and Seminars) will be face to face. In Semester 2, the pattern will be the same, unless there are changes in relation to Public Health conditions and advice.

- **Advise on how students should approach online learning.**

CELT have a number of excellent resources on online teaching and teaching pedagogy that students should consult.

<https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/10-Points-to-Remember-when-Learning-Online.pdf>

<http://www.allaboardhe.ie/Aspire/Learner/content/index.html#/>

- **Importance of following Covid-19 guidelines and etiquette while on campus.**

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/alert/implementingpublichealthguidelines/>

Assessment

Semester 1	Due date and marks
Essay 1 based on material from Section A HI1103 (Ireland).	Questions on BB 12 Oct Essay Due 9 Nov 40% of HISK1101 mark
Essay 2 based on material from Section B HI1103 (Europe)	Questions on BB 13 Nov Essay Due 11 Dec 40% of HISK1101 mark
Online Report (HISK1101)	Details to be provided in Tutorial B 20% of HISK1101

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2x Open Book Exams (HI1103)	Details will be announced in class and on the module Blackboard site.
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Semester 2	Due date and marks
Essay 2 based on material from Section A HI1104 (Ireland in the Early Medieval World).	TBC 40% of HISK1102 mark
Essay 2 based on material from Section B HI1104 (Reformation and General Crisis)	TBC 40% of HISK1102 mark
Writing Skills (HISK1102)	TBC 20% of HISK1102
2x Open Book Exams (HI1103)	Details will be announced in class and on the module Blackboard site.

Aims and outcomes of First Year History

- Take accurate and meaningful notes on lectures.
- Read, and summarise the key points of, material from the past.
- Deploy the knowledge you have gained to write an essay in an examination.
- Explain how the time and place of a document's origin influence its meaning.
- Define the difference between primary and secondary historical sources.
- Recognise some links between Irish and European history.
- Express your opinion about historical material orally.
- Write a short analysis of historical sources.

Live Introductory Question and Answer Session

- The outline of the material covered in the Live Session is in the Power Point Presentation 'Seven Reasons to Study History'.
- The live sessions will take place on **Wednesday, 23 September and Friday, 25 September**

Important Links

- Link to Discipline Webpage, including: Programme Information on Discipline Webpage, First Year Student Handbook and First year Timetable.
http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/history-philosophy/disciplines-centres/history/undergraduate-courses/history_firstarts/
- <http://www.nuigalway.ie/ourpromise/>

- <https://libguides.library.nuigalway.ie/GettingStarted>