

SECOND YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

SEMESTER 1

LECTURE MODULES (5 ECTS) – Choose **THREE** lecture modules

HI204: 18th Century Ireland, 1691–1801 – Breandán Mac Suibhne

This course is a survey of Irish history in the period from the articles of Limerick to the Act of Union. It aims to introduce students to salient developments in the spheres of government, society and the economy while paying particular attention to the identities of the three main religious communities and the ways in which these evolved during the eighteenth century. Topics that will be explored include the relationship of the Irish polity to the British government; the significance of Catholic Jacobitism; and the political dimension of Protestant Dissent. The course also aims to acquaint students with current historiographical debates on such issues as Penal legislation; Anglo-Irish patriotism; politicisation in the 1790s; and the applicability of ‘colonial’ and/or ‘ancien régime’ models in the context of eighteenth-century Ireland.

Introductory Reading:

David Dickson, *New foundations* (1999)

Ian McBride, *Eighteenth Century Ireland: The Long Peace* (2009)

S.J. Connolly, *Divided Kingdom: Ireland, 1630–1800* (2010)

HI2102: The Modern United States. 1865-2008 – Enrico Dal Lago

This course will introduce students to the history and historiography of the United States between the end of the Civil War and the election of Barack Obama. Specific themes will include: racial politics in the U.S. South; expansion into the West; industrialization, imperialism and World War I; the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II and the making of the U.S. global power; the Cold War; the 1960s with the Civil Rights Movement; the student protest and Vietnam; the long conservative backlash from Nixon through Bush, Jr.; and the election of Obama.

Introductory Reading:

E. Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History* (2024)

D. Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945* (2001)

C.B. Strain, *The Long Sixties: America, 1955-1973* (2017)

HI2157: The Reformation: Tolerance and Intolerance in Early European Society – Alison Forrestal

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, western Europeans shared a common religious identity as members of the Catholic church. By the early seventeenth century, European society had altered irrevocably, with this unity replaced by an array of conflicting denominations, churches and sects. This period, commonly known as the Reformation, was an era of unprecedented unrest and change in European history, with enormous and enduring significance for the political and cultural development of Europe.

This module focuses on the political and socio-cultural impact of the Reformation. It will trace its beginnings in 1517, when the scholarly monk Martin Luther defied pope and emperor by refusing to retract his criticisms of catholic doctrines and devotions, such as indulgences. It will examine the

origins of the protest, asking what longer term political, cultural and social trends contributed to its outbreak, and transformed an isolated intellectual debate into a revolution. It will also trace the rapid growth of support for dissent and reform, followed by the radicalisation and fragmentation of the new movement as it spread across the German lands, and into Switzerland, France, and the Low Countries. The political and social implications of the Reformation were thrashed out in revolts and wars, such as the Peasants' Revolt (1524), the French civil wars (1562), and the Dutch Revolt (1567), which will form case studies in the module. Other topics of study will include the impact of the Reformation on attitudes towards gender, sexuality, ethnicity and the position of minorities within European society.

Introductory Reading:

D. MacCulloch, *Reformation: Europe's House Divided, 1490-1700* (London, 2004).

P. Marshall, *The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2009).

U. Rublack, *Reformation Europe* (Cambridge, 2005).

HI2158: Global History and Modern Capitalism: 1400-1820 – James Livesey

In the last twenty years the history of capitalism has been one of the most important themes in Global History. In this lecture course students will be introduced to the key debates in this area. The course will begin with an introductory topic that will enable students to differentiate capitalism from other kinds of economic organisation, principally Thompson's idea of the moral economy. We will also engage with the periodisation for capitalism. This introduction will be the basis on which will develop our thinking on the relative importance of international trade and domestic institutions in the development of the modern economy. In this section we will look at work by O'Rourke and Williamson and contrast that with Robert Brenner's arguments for the agrarian roots of capitalism. The central section of the course will be taken up with the debates around consumption, slavery, and empire. Core reading in this section will include the classic Williams thesis, and its development in the literature on the relationship between cotton and chattel slavery in the group around Rockman and Beckert. We will extend this debate by looking at very new work by colleagues such as Elizabeth Cross and Felicia Gottmann on chartered companies. The penultimate section will address the history of finance capitalism, looking at the inflationary effects of silver supply from the Americas in the early period, the era of financial experimentation in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the eventual emergence of a recognisable world of international finance around the Gold Standard in the early nineteenth century. We will conclude with a consideration of Pomeranz's "Great Divergence" between Atlantic and Asian economies.

Introductory Reading:

James Livesey, "An Alternative Genealogy for Global Capitalism: The Rhine Becomes an Inland Sea, 1792-1815", *Critical Historical Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2019)

Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study*, Cambridge Mass., 1982

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of our Time*, Boston: Beacon 1957

HI2160: Ireland Since Independence – Shannon Devlin

This survey lecture module charts the principal developments in twentieth-century Irish social, political, and economic history. It will begin by examining the struggle for Irish independence, the partition of the island, and development of government in both sides of the border. We will then contemplate the social and political developments during WWII/the Emergency, post-war relations between 'the Two Irelands', and the return to political violence in Northern Ireland. The module will

finish considering the changing economic landscape at the end of the twentieth century and the road to the 'Celtic Tiger'. By balancing both the political and the social, this module will explore themes of gender, religion, Irish pop culture, leisure, poverty, and excess to determine what it was like to live in twentieth century Ireland.

Introductory reading:

Bartlett, Thomas, ed. *The Cambridge History of Ireland, 1880 to the present*, vol. 4 (Cambridge, 2018), chapters 9, 10, 11, 12.

Biagini, Eugenio F. and Mary E. Daly, ed., *The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland* (Cambridge, 2017), chapters 8, 9, 10, 11.

Jackson, Alvin. *Ireland, 1798-1998* (Blackwell, Oxford, 1999), chapters 6, 7, 8.

HI2162: Scotland and Ireland: War, Migration, Religion, 1560-1707 – Pól Ó Dochartaigh

This module will engage with the development of Scotland from an independent Catholic country through the Calvinist Reformation of the 1560s and the wars and migrations of the 1600s through to Protestant Scotland's loss of independence in the Act of Union of 1707. We will also study the development of a different and less successful Reformation in Ireland and the wars of the late 1500s and 1600s up to 1690. Migration from Scotland, especially to Ulster, and participation of soldiers from each nation in wars in the other nation are a central aspect of the module.

Introductory reading:

Johnnie Gallacher 2025, *Scotland's Turmoil 1500-1707*, Historia Glasgow

Raymond Gillespie 2006, *Seventeenth-century Ireland*, Gill Books Dublin

Robert Allan Houston and William Knox, 2001, *The New Penguin History of Scotland*, Ch4, pp.182-275, Penguin London

Colm Lennon 1994, *Sixteenth-Century Ireland*, Gill & Macmillan Dublin

Laura A. M. Stewart and Janay Nugent 2020, *Union and Revolution. Scotland and Beyond, 1625-1745*, Edinburgh University Press Edinburgh

SEMESTER 2

COLLOQUIA (10 ECTS) – Choose ONE colloquium

HI431: French Mobilisation and the Great War - Gearóid Barry

This colloquium focuses on French society and politics and their relationship to the military in a system long based on military conscription and the French Revolution's idea of the 'citizen-soldier'. We shall examine this from about 1900 up to the outbreak of War in 1914 through to the period of demobilization in the early 1920s. The weekly lecture is meant to help provide you with context for the informed interrogation of primary documents in the group sessions. As four elements are indispensable to any national study of the First World War -namely the military, political, social and cultural aspects - this module is informed by the 'new' cultural history of the First World War, exemplified by the book by Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Annette Becker & Leonard V. Smith, *France and the Great War* (Cambridge, 2003). Using concepts of 'war culture' and 'cultural mobilization,' we shall analyse how French society responded to the trauma of military invasion and the need to defend the 'fatherland'patrie. Pre-war political and religious struggles had been muted but not resolved by the call to arms. While society and culture are examined, we also give attention to the

chief, decisive military such as the two battles of the Marne (1914 & 1918), Verdun (1916), Chemin des Dames (1917) and the nearly successful German Spring Offensive of 1918.

Introductory Reading:

Audoin-Rouzeau, Stéphane, Annette Becker & Leonard V. Smith, *France and the Great War 1914-1918* (Cambridge, 2003).

Greenhalgh, Elizabeth. *The French Army and the First World War* (Cambridge, 2014).

HI295: The American Civil War: Its Causes and Developments - Enrico Dal Lago

Between 1861 and 1865, the United States of America embarked on a four-year long Civil War, which caused more than 700,000 dead, destroyed the lives of an entire generation, and led to the Emancipation of 4,000,000 African American slaves. Historians have debated endlessly about the reasons for the occurrence of the American Civil War, and even more so about the way and the extent to which the United States was really transformed by it. Through the reading of key documents – ranging from South Carolina’s *Declaration of the Causes of Secession* to Abraham Lincoln’s *Emancipation Proclamation* – and of key writings by historians, this colloquium will introduce the students to some of the most important issues in the analysis of the causes and developments of the American Civil War. Key topics include slavery and the North-South political conflict; Secession and the making of the Confederacy; battle strategy and the life of soldiers; the northern and southern home fronts; Emancipation; the American Civil War in comparative perspective; and the post-war Reconstruction.

Introductory Reading:

S. Hahn, *A Nation without Borders: The United States and its World in an Age of Civil Wars, 1830-1910* (2017)

J. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (1988)

S. McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (2010)

E. Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and the Abolition of Slavery* (2010)

HI166: Ireland in the 1950s – Tomás Finn

This colloquium module will explore Ireland during the 1950s as a decade of continuity and change. As Ireland, both sides of the border, emerged from the Second World War, the decade is marked by economic stagnation, an emigration crisis, and political upheaval. This module will consider the tension between church and state, the pressure to face serious public health and welfare concerns, and post-war foreign policy. It will explore Ireland’s admission to the United Nations, new anxiety over partition and the IRA border campaign in the wake of the Republic of Ireland Act. As society slowly modernised, this module will consider how both Irish governments in the Republic and Northern Ireland embraced or resisted change. Themes explored include the roll out of electricity, difficulties of living in rural Ireland, education provision, a housing crisis, and a lack of sustainable industry. The final section of the module will explore social conservatism and changing attitudes towards popular culture and public morality as society was pulled towards new and exciting cinema and television, American influence, the showband, and the automobile.

Introductory Reading:

Finn, Tomas. *Tuairim, Intellectual Debate and Policy Formulation*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2012.

Girvin, Brian. “Stability, Crisis and Change in Post-War Ireland 1945–1973.” In *The Cambridge History of Ireland*, 381–406. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Keogh, Dermot, and Carmel Quinlan, ed., *The Lost Decade: Ireland in the 1950s*. Cork: Mercier Press, 2003.

HI2159: Land and Revolution in Ireland, 1879-1922 – Laurence Marley

This colloquium will examine the role of agrarian conflict in the shaping of modern Ireland. During the Land War of 1879-82, led by Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt, the land question and the question of Ireland's national independence became inextricably linked, forcing a direct response from the Liberal government of William Gladstone in the form of historic land legislation. The collective protest of the Irish peasantry was so formidable by the end of 1880 that the *Times* (London) suggested that the Land League need only print its own currency in order to gain control of the country. However, complex class forces were at play in this wave of agrarian agitation, as they were in successive land wars in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Arenas of conflict – not only between landlords and tenants but also larger farmers and tenants, graziers and small farmers, farmers and labourers, and shopkeepers and farmers – continued to present serious challenges (and sometimes opportunities) to British politicians, the landed ascendancy in Ireland, and indeed the leadership of the Irish revolutionary movement from 1916. An examination of the land wars in this period will aid a greater understanding of the complexity of Irish politics and society in the run up to the birth of the Irish Free State in 1922.

Introductory Reading:

Bull, Philip. *Land, Politics and Nationalism: A Study of the Irish Land Question* (Dublin, 1996).

Campbell, Fergus. *Land and Revolution* (Oxford, 2005).

Campbell, Fergus & Tony Varley, ed. *Land Questions in Modern Ireland* (Manchester, 2013).

HI2163: Life under Communism: The German Democratic Republic, 1949-90 – Pól Ó Dochartaigh

In this module students will study the German Democratic Republic that emerged from the Soviet Zone of Occupation (1945-49) and its context in the division of both Germany and Europe up to 1990. Emerging from the ruins of Nazism, the German Democratic Republic proclaimed itself a socialist, antifascist state of the 'workers and peasants'. Its leaders had all fought Nazism and sought to build an egalitarian state on Germany, the land of Karl Marx. That state was also part of a wider bloc of socialist states that was led and dominated by the Soviet Union. The module will engage with the social, political, economic and cultural history of the GDR, leading from repression in the 1950s through slow and uneven change to reform in the 1970s and 1980s and finally collapse in 1989-90.

Introductory Reading:

Paul Betts 2012, *Within Walls: Private Life in the German Democratic Republic*, OUP Oxford

Mary Fulbrook 1995, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*, OUP Oxford

Pól Ó Dochartaigh 2003, *Germany since 1945*, Macmillan Basingstoke

LECTURE MODULES (5 ECTS) – Choose ONE lecture module

HI2146: The Making and Breaking of Britain: Tomás Finn

This module asks what it means to be British. The twentieth century ended with the opening of the National Assembly of Wales and a parliament in Scotland. These were in many ways unexpected and unlikely events. It was Scotland's first parliament for 300 years and the first in Wales for almost 600

years. This module considers the factors that led to their establishment and may in turn lead to the break-up of Britain, along with the ties that continue to unite the country. It examines not just the question of national identity especially for the Scots and Welsh, but also the phenomenon of English nationalism. Topics include the impact of two world wars, the decline of the British Empire, economic challenges, the European Union and the evolution of public policy and public opinion. By considering the long- and short-term factors that led to devolution, this module helps us to understand what it is to be English, Welsh and Scottish within a British context.

Introductory Reading:

Colley, Linda 2014, *Acts of Union and Disunion*, Profile Books London

Alexander Grant and Keith J. Stringer (eds.), *Uniting the Kingdom? The making of British History*, Routledge London

Robbins, Keith, *Great Britain: Identities, Institutions and the Idea of Britishness*, Longman New York

HI2150: Europe, 1918-1949 - Gearóid Barry

This is a survey lecture module about politics and society across Europe in the thirty-year period from the end of the First World War to the aftermath of the Second World War. The revolutionary turmoil that grips the Russian empire from 1917 forms the first act of this module, setting the scene for what would become by the 1930s Europe's 'age of dictatorships'. We learn how the uneasy and violent 'peace' of 1919 was a deeply ambiguous one, at one and the same time recognising the democratic nation-state as the normative unit of European politics just at the moment when new modes of politics (embodied by Lenin's Communists and Mussolini's fascists) mobilised Europeans with quite different sacred causes. All the same, what we call interwar Europe (1919-39) was not on a predetermined path to the Second World War. Choices made by leaders (such as Hitler and Stalin, to take the most dramatic examples) and specific events – such as, for example, the course and nature of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39)- mattered immensely to the shape of political outcomes in Europe as a whole. World War II itself forms the crux of the European twentieth century. Its utter destruction made for a political aftermath in 1945-49 quite different from that of 1919 in that dominant superpowers were able to impose peace but at the cost of a divided Europe.

Introductory Reading:

Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back. Europe, 1914-1949* (London, 2016).

David G. Williamson, *The age of the dictators: a study of the European dictatorships 1918-53* (London, 2013).

Conan Fischer, *Europe between democracy and dictatorship, 1900-1945* (Chichester 2011).

HI2164: Europe, 1950-2010 – Pól Ó Dochartaigh

Students will study the history of Europe from the Cold War divisions that emerged in the wake of World War 2 up to ca. 2010. The module will be structured in three blocks, as follows: 1. East vs West; 2. Regionalisms and Nationalisms; 3. Religious and Racial prejudice. It will engage with such issues as i. communism vs capitalism; ii. West European integration; iii. Soviet hegemony and protest in eastern Europe; iv. Attitudes to authority, family, and sexuality; v. The fall of communism and the re-emergence of nationalisms; vi. Sectarianism, Racism, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia.

Introductory reading:

John Connolly 2022, *From Peoples into Nations: A History of Eastern Europe*, Princeton University Press Princeton

Tony Judt 2024, *Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945*, Penguin London

Kiran Klaus Patel 2026, *A Concise History of the European Union*, Cambridge University Press
Cambridge

James Renton, Ben Gidley (eds) 2017, *Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe: A Shared Story?*
Palgrave Macmillan London

Vladislav Zubok 2025, *The World of the Cold War: 1945-1991*, Pelican London

LIB2102 – History and the Archive: Understanding Research, Preservation and Management in Archives and Special Collections – Hardiman Library Staff *FOR BA HISTORY STUDENTS ONLY*

This unique module is one in which students will experience an innovative and stimulating introduction to the theory and practice of archives and records management and the use and interpretation of archives and special collections in research. The course will examine a range of historiographical questions from historic and contemporary records in a range of formats, the importance of records and archives and their impact in society, interrogating and trusting archives, linking archives for research. It will develop new learning techniques and practical experience in archival research and information skills through handling, examining and discovering archival materials and special collections. Personal archives, landed estate archives, literary and theatre archives, political archives, Irish language archives, photographic archives, map, newspaper, and digital collections, as well as a range of personal libraries from within the collections of the James Hardiman Library are among the material that will be used in the teaching of this course.

Introductory reading:

Brown, Caroline, Ed, "Archives and Recordkeeping: theory into practice". London: 2014.

Dooley, Terence, "The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland: a research guide". Dublin: Four Courts Press 2007.

Gillespie, Raymond et al. *Doing Irish local history: pursuit and practice* (Belfast: 1998).