

FINAL YEAR MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

SEMESTER 1

SEMINARS (10 ECTS)

Choose ONE Seminar module

HI3213: The Irish Land War in Transnational Perspective – Andrew Newby

This module will explore the national and international roots of the Irish Land War (1879-1882), as well as its short- and long-term impact on societies well beyond Ireland's shores. It will look at the transnational philosophical underpinnings, as well as the national social and economic peculiarities, of Ireland's "land question" in the nineteenth century, including writings by J.S. Mill, Karl Marx and Henry George. The Irish Diaspora, especially in Britain, North America and Australia but in various other parts of the world, also played an important role in developing the Land League, and shaping its demands. Although the Land War is remembered as a vital building block in the Irish nationalist movement, and indeed a contributor to the struggle for self-determination and independence, the events in Ireland in the early 1880s had immediate overseas repercussions, for example in rural Scotland and Wales, as well as in urban centres in Britain. Historian Jo Guldi has recently claimed recently that the land war eventually brought the British Empire "to its knee", and therefore to the present day the Irish example has inspired various diverse subaltern and indigenous groups throughout the world to demand land rights.

Recommended book resources:

Myles Dungan 2025, *Land is All That Matters*, Apollo [ISBN: 9781801108157]

Jo Guldi 2022, *The Long Land War*, Yale University Press [ISBN: 030025668X]

Ely M. Janis 2015, *A Greater Ireland*, University of Wisconsin Press [ISBN: 9780299301248]

Laurence Marley, *Michael Davitt* [ISBN: 1846820669]

Tara M. McCarthy 2018, *Respectability and Reform*, Syracuse University Press [ISBN: 0815635885]

Andrew G. Newby 2007, *Ireland, Radicalism, and the Scottish Highlands, C. 1870-1912*, Edinburgh University Press Edinburgh [ISBN: 9780748623754]

Andrew Phemister 2023, *Land and Liberalism*, Cambridge University Press [ISBN: 1009202898]

Niall Whelehan 2021, *Changing Land*, NYU Press [ISBN: 1479809551]

HI3214: Irish Elites in the British Empire - Laurence Marley

This module examines the career and status opportunities which an expanding British empire offered to Irish professionals and elite administrators in the nineteenth century. From a transnational perspective, students will study these imperial lives in education, engineering, medicine, law, policing, the military, and colonial governorship - all of them connected in an empire that was vast, diverse, powerful and complex. Among the primary sources examined in the module are papers and records associated with some of those imperial lives during their formative years at Queen's College Galway, in the latter half of that century.

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Recommended book resources:

Fergus Campbell 2009, *The Irish Establishment* [ISBN: 978-019923322]
David Dickson 2012, *Irish Classroom and British Empire* [ISBN: 9781846823349]
Barry Crosbie 2012, *Irish Imperial Networks: Migration, Social Communication and Exchange in Nineteenth-Century India*, Cambridge Cambridge [ISBN: 978-052111937]
David Lambert 2006, *Language and Ethnicity*, Cambridge Cambridge [ISBN: 978-0-521-612]
Senia Pašeta 1999, *Before the Revolution*, Cork University Press Cork [ISBN: 1859182267]

HI484: Slavery and Emancipation – Enrico Dal Lago

This module aims to provide students with the necessary background they need to select, use, and interpret the vast range of primary sources related to American slavery and place them in the context of current historiographical debate. Major topics include Colonial Slavery, the American Revolution, the Planters' Worldview, the Plantation Mistress, Slave Culture and Slave Resistance, Antislavery, and the Civil War and Emancipation.

Recommended book resources:

Rick Halpern and Enrico Dal Lago, *Slavery & Emancipation*, (Blackwell, 2002).
Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery, 1619-1877* (Hill & Wang, 2003)
Ira Berlin, *Generations of Captivity: A History of African American Slaves* (Harvard University Press, 2002)
Enrico Dal Lago, *American Slavery, Atlantic Slavery, and Beyond: The U.S. "Peculiar Institution" in International Perspective* (Paradigm Publishers, 2012)

HI3112 The First World War: Transnational Perspectives - Gearóid Barry

The First World War – which mobilized entire societies for war on an unprecedented scale - raises enduring questions about coercion, consent and violence in modern society. It was also a war of empires -of various types- fought out across the globe. Taking the approach of transnational history – which seeks to identify links and common themes across national borders- this module combines national histories of large and small belligerents (ranging, for example, from Germany, France and the UK to Portugal) through a thematic approach. As such, we examine the varying ways in which the First World War brought forth social and cultural change but also continuity (in gender roles for example). Thus, our readings may consider diverse themes such as women's war work, nationalism, religion and the use of poison gas and submarine warfare. Bearing in mind the place of the First World War in annual commemorations – such as Armistice Day- and popular culture more generally, from gaming to movies like the Sam Mendes-directed *1917*, students will also engage with lively historical debates and controversies relating to the First World War and its consequences.

Recommended book resources:

Jörn Leonhard, *Pandora's Box. A History of the First World War*. (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 2018).
Robert Gerwarth & Erez Manela (eds), *Empires at War: 1911-1923*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.)
Michael S. Neiberg, *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I* (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 2011).
John Horne (ed.), *A Companion to World War I* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

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HI167: Power and Conflict in Northern Ireland, 1963-1972 – Tomás Finn

This module explores power struggles in Northern Ireland from Terence O'Neill's accession to power and the emergence of the civil rights movement in 1963 to the outbreak of conflict in 1968, its escalation and ultimately the collapse of Stormont in 1972. It considers a variety of strategies for change – political activism, mass demonstrations, propaganda and armed struggles, as well as a variety of government strategies to contain unrest. The seminars will focus on examine events from the perspectives of various individuals and groups involved, as well as historical studies and theoretical interpretations.

Recommended book resources:

Thomas Hennessey 2005, *Northern Ireland: The Origins of the Troubles*, Gill & Macmillan Dublin, Ireland [ISBN: 0717133826]

Niall Ó Dochartaigh, *From Civil Rights to Armalites: Derry and the Birth of the Irish Troubles*, Palgrave Macmillan [ISBN: 9781403944306]

Bob Purdie 1990, *Politics in the streets: The Origin of the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland*, Blackstaff Press Belfast [ISBN: 0856404373]

HI3215: The Boyne and After: Stuarts and Jacobites in European Politics, 1690-1788 – Pól Ó Dochartaigh

The Battle of the Boyne was a central event not just in the history of Ireland but in the history of Europe. It confirmed the Protestant deposition of the Catholic James II from the thrones of the three kingdoms, Ireland, Scotland and England. Yet the Stuarts and their Jacobite supporters did not simply go away. For the next 60 years political intrigues across Britain and mainland Europe centred around the question of the legitimacy of those who sat on the throne in London as the British Empire began its ascent to world domination. Those in power in London were ever fearful of the possibility of a Stuart return, something which had its advocates in the three kingdoms, France and beyond. Jacobitism arguably ceased to be a serious threat after the Battle of Culloden in 1746, though the claims to the throne only finally ended for all but the most diehard Jacobites with the death of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', the Jacobite King Charles III, in 1788. This module will explore concepts of religious, political, cultural and national loyalty and intrigue in Ireland, Britain and mainland Europe in this period as they related to the Jacobite cause.

Recommended book resources:

Allan I. MacInnes 2025, *Conflict and Loyalty. Jacobitism in Europe and Beyond*, Reaktion London [ISBN: 9781836390930]

Frank McLynn 2020, *The Jacobites*, Sharpe Books [ISBN: 9798645848262]

Éamonn Ó Ciardha 2004, *Ireland and the Jacobite Cause, 1685-1766*, Four Courts Dublin [ISBN: 9781851825347]

Murray Pittock 1998, *Jacobitism*, Palgrave Macmillan Basingstoke [ISBN: 9780312213069]

Daniel Szechi 2019, *The Jacobites. Britain and Europe, 1688-1788*, 2nd Ed., Manchester University Press Manchester [ISBN: 9781526139665]

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HI3204: The Family in Irish Society – Shannon Devlin

The stereotypical image of the Irish family is large with lots of children. This seminar module engages with the growing body of family history methodological approaches to the Irish past and aims to broaden our understanding of what the typical 'Irish Family' was in the past. It will explore gender roles within family, the importance of extended and multi-generational family, and 'found family'. Themes considered in this seminar include childhood, singlehood, marriage breakdown, gossip, family loyalty, and sibling rivalry. Using a wide range of primary sources – including family papers and letters, photographs, genealogical records, census data, migration records, and printed material – this seminar will consider how the position of the family changed over time, the differing experiences of family depending on class, and investigate alternative family structures to find out if there really ever was a 'typical' Irish family.

Recommended book resources:

Eugenio F. Biagini and Mary E. Daly (eds), *The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland* (Cambridge, 2017).

HI3206: Race, Enslavement and Representation in the 18C and 19C British Atlantic World – Anita Rupprecht

This module explores ideas and representations of race, gender and enslavement in 18th and 19th century British Caribbean and wider Atlantic world. Focusing on questions of colonial connection, representation, identity, creolisation, resistance, and power, the module will engage primary and secondary materials in order to analyse and critically interpret the ways in which those who were enslaved related to, and resisted, the oppressive systems under which they were forced to labour, as well as the convictions and actions of enslavers and anti-slavery campaigners.

Recommended book resources:

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (Third Ed., University of North Carolina Press Chapel Hill (2021)

Catherine Hall, *Lucky Valley: Edward Long and the History of Racial Capitalism* (First Ed., Cambridge: University Press Cambridge, 2024)

Sasha Turner, *Contested Bodies: Pregnancy, Childbearing and Slavery in Jamaica* (First Ed., Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press 2017)

HI3216: Ideas and Social and Political Institutions in Nineteenth Century Ireland – Breandán MacSuibhne

Drawing on primary and secondary sources, this seminar in Social and Cultural History invites students to explore the transformation of ideas and institutions in nineteenth-century Ireland. Among those open for investigation are the Public House, Fairs and Markets, Cess, Marriage, the Hedge School, the National School, Mass, Gombeenism, the Wake, Outrage, Begging, the Law, and Exile. Central to the module will be the completion of a substantial paper on the history of an institution in a parish, barony, county or other geographical area of the student's choosing.

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Recommended book resources:

Angela Bourke 1999, *The Burning of Bridget Cleary*, London [ISBN: 978-014100202]

Enda Delaney 2025, *Making Ireland Modern: The Transformation of Society and Culture*, Oxford [ISBN: 9780199569823]

Breandán Mac Suibhne 2017, *The End of Outrage: Post-Famine Adjustment in Rural Ireland*, Oxford University Press [ISBN: 9780198738619]

SEMESTER 1

Lectures (5 ECTS)

Choose ONE lecture module

HI3195: Suffrage to Repeal: women's activism in Ireland and Britain, 1880-2016 – Sarah-Anne Buckley

This module will examine the history of women's activism and feminism in Ireland and Britain from the beginnings of the suffrage campaign in the late nineteenth century, to the repeal of the eighth amendment in 2016. Looking chronologically and regionally, it will provide the context for the first wave of feminist activism and the connections between this and subsequent waves. Placed in the social, economic and political context of the time, it will highlight the importance of gender, social class, education and rising expectations.

Recommended book resources:

Linda Connolly, *The Irish Women's Movement: From Revolution to Devolution* (1st Ed, 2003)

Elizabeth Crawford, *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain and Ireland* (1st Ed., Routledge, 2006)

HI3217: (Ab)Using the Past - History, Politics and Memory in Modern Europe – Andrew Newby

The study of history can be accompanied by clichés. Is history always "written by the winners"? If we do not "learn from the mistakes of the past" are we "doomed to repeat them"? This module will examine the way in which historical narratives develop, the way in which these narratives are contested, and how they can be politicised. Through an examination of five European case studies (Ireland, Spain, the Soviet Union, Scotland and the Indigenous peoples of the Circumpolar regions), students will engage with contemporary debates, including those around memorialisation, statues, national curricula, and state apologies for historical events.

Recommended book resources:

A. Erll 2011, *Memory in Culture*, Palgrave Macmillan [ISBN: 9780230297456]

Yifat Gutman, Jenny Wüstenberg 2022, *The Routledge Handbook of Memory Activism*, Routledge [ISBN: 0367650398]

Anna Maerker, Adam Sutcliffe, Simon Sleight 2018, *History, Memory and Public Life*, Routledge [ISBN: 9781138905849]

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Anna Lisa Tota, Trever Hagen 2019, *Routledge International Handbook of Memory Studies*, Routledge International Handbooks [ISBN: 9780367868451]
Jorg Hackmann, Marko Lehti, *Contested and Shared Places of Memory* [ISBN: 9780415846776]

HI3210: The British Empire: Imperialism and Resistance – Anita Rupprecht

The British Empire and its global legacies have become a significant topic in contemporary debates over Britain's modern history and conceptions of British identity. Framed by these issues, this module focuses on the expansion of the British Empire from the mid-eighteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. Introducing key critical debates and approaches to the study of empire and colonialism, it explores the early modern development of the British Atlantic World, the Atlantic revolutions and the East India Company's impact on the Indian subcontinent in the eighteenth century. In subsequent weeks the module considers the British Empire's changing character thematically and geographically, tracing the nineteenth development of the empire in India, Australia and Africa, and concluding with Britain's role in the imperial 'scramble' for global assets during the period leading up to First World War.

Recommended book resources:

Philippa Levine, *The British Empire. From Sunrise to Sunset* (1st ed., Longman Harlow, 2007)
Sarah Stockwell, *The British Empire: themes and perspectives* (1st ed., Blackwell Oxford, 2008)
Priya Satia, *Time's Monster: History, Conscience and the Britain's Empire* (Penguin, London, 2022)
Priyamavada Gopal, *Insurgent Empire: Anticolonialism and the Making of British Dissent: Anticolonial Resistance and British Dissent* (Verso London, 2020)
Philip Harling, *Managing Mobility: The British Imperial State and Global Migration, 1840-1860* (Cambridge University Press Cambridge, 2024)

SEMESTER 2

Lecture Modules (5 ECTS)

Choose THREE lecture modules

HI3205: Gender, Sexuality, and Society in Ireland, 1780-1922 – Shannon Devlin

This module will explore Irish society through the lens of gender and sexuality. By exploring gender roles across all classes in Irish society, it will question what it meant to be masculine and feminine in the long nineteenth century. This module will trace changing attitudes to sexuality and the influence of religious and moral teaching on the regulation of sexuality. It will cover themes such as illegitimacy and birth control, institutionalisation, sex outside marriage, breach of promise, the criminalisation of same-sex relationships and so-called 'deviant' sexuality. By the end of this module, you will have an understanding of the gendered experiences and expectations placed on men and women throughout Irish history and how this impacted Irish society in the past.

Recommended Book Resources:

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Diarmaid Ferriter 2012, *Occasions of Sin, Ch1*, (Profile Books, 2012)

Jennifer Redmond and Mary McAuliffe (eds), *The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland: A Reader* (Four Courts Press, 2024)

HI362: Party & Power In 19th & 20th Century British History – Laurence Marley

This module explores the relationship between the exercise of political power and the development of political parties in Britain in the period c. 1800 – c.1918. The lectures consider the interplay between ideological and socio-economic forces, organisational structures, leadership and mass political mobilisation. Areas under examination will include the Great Reform Act of 1832 and the changing nature of electoral/political culture during the module of the nineteenth century; the rise of Chartism, the greatest movement of popular protest in British history; the role of the empire factor in party politics in this age of imperialist expansion; suffragist and suffragette campaigns for female franchise in the late Victorian and Edwardian periods; and the rise of independent labour politics in Westminster, and the ultimately political eclipse of the great Liberal Party, particularly after the impact of WWI. Given the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland from 1801, this survey of British political history in the ‘long nineteenth century’ will prove indispensable to those also interested in parallel developments in Ireland during that period.

Recommended Book Resources:

Stephen J. Lee, *Aspects of Modern British History, 1815-1914*, (London, 1994)

E.J. Evans, *The Great Reform Act, 1832*, (London, 1983)

Malcolm Chase, *Chartism: a new history*, (Manchester, 2007)

Jonathan Parry, *The rise and fall of Liberal government in Victorian Britain* (London, 1993)

Robert Blake, *The Conservative Party from Peel to Major*, (London, 1998)

Martin Pugh, *The march of the women: a revisionist analysis of the campaign for women's suffrage, 1866-1914*, (Oxford, 2004)

HI3207: The Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1450-1870 – Anita Rupprecht

This survey module explores the transatlantic slave trade, 1450-1870. Drawing on a range of primary sources and key historiographies, the module will consider the origins and expansion of the transatlantic trade, the Middle Passage, the impact on Africa, the development of the plantation economy in the Americas, the abolition movement and the endings of enslavement in the context of nineteenth century global transformations in racialised labour relations.

Recommended Book Resources:

Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Penguin London, 2008)

David Eltis and David Richardson, *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*. (Yale University Press, 2015)

John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400–1800*, (Cambridge University Press Cambridge, 1998)

John Harris, *The Last Slave Ships: New York and the End of the Middle Passage* (Yale University Press New Haven, 2020)

Robin Blackburn, *The Reckoning: From the Second Slavery to Abolition, 1776-1888* (Verso, 2024)

Herbert S. Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade* (Cambridge University Press Cambridge, 2010)

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HI3100: Brave New World: Globalisation since 1945 – Kevin O’Sullivan

The phenomenon of globalisation is vital to our understanding of the world since the end of the Second World War, and particularly since the 1970s. In this module we will look at the processes that made the world a more integrated and interdependent place in the second half of the twentieth century. Beginning with the United Nations and ending with the anti-globalisation movement and the ‘Battle of Seattle’ in the late 1990s, we will examine the actors (international organisations, social movements, NGOs); issues (environmentalism, human rights, consumerism); and impacts (rising inequality, and organised reaction against the spread of global capital) that were key to that process, and ask: how has globalisation come to shape our contemporary world?

Recommended Reading:

Christopher A. Bayly, *Remaking the Modern World, 1900-2015: Global Connections and Comparisons* (Oxford, 2018).

HI3196: The Great Irish Famine – Breandán Mac Suibhne

This module begins by examining famine in general, looking in particular at famine in pre-modern Europe. It then moves to a detailed analysis of the Irish famine of 1845-50.

Recommended Book Resources:

Ciarán Ó Murchadha, *The Great Famine* (Continuum, 2011).

HI3218: Famine in Nineteenth Century Europe and its Empires – Andrew Newby

This lecture module will examine the prevalence of famine in Europe (including European colonies across the globe) in the period between Ireland’s Great Hunger and the end of the First World War. Using the Irish experience as a reference point, it will examine the causes, impacts and consequences of these different famines, including topics such as colonial administration; the imposition of work tasks (e.g. building “famine roads”); the use of emergency foods; ideas of culpability; national and international philanthropy / charity; famine memory and politicisation; ideas of solidarity across time and place.

Recommended book resources:

David Arnold 1988, *Famine*, Wiley-Blackwell [ISBN: 0631151184]

Mike Davis 2017, *Late Victorian Holocausts*, National Geographic Books [ISBN: 1784786624]

Alex de Waal 2018, *Mass Starvation*, Polity [ISBN: 1509524673]

Stephen Devereux 1993, *Theories of Famine*, Prentice Hall [ISBN: 0745014178]

Norbert Götz, Georgina Brewis, Steffen Werther 2020, *Humanitarianism in the Modern World*, Cambridge University Press [ISBN: 1108493521]

Cormac Ó Gráda 2009, *Famine*, Princeton University Press [ISBN: 0691147973]

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HI3219: Science and Technology from the Scientific Revolution to the Climate Crisis – Jim Livesey

This module will introduce advanced undergraduate students to debates in the establishment and development of the institutions of science and technology since 1500. The module will have three elements. It will address the emergence of modern science in the early modern period. The second section will look at science and technology practice, focusing on the life sciences (1800-2020) and space flight. The final section will explore the challenges to science and technology, and particularly the climate crisis.

Recommended book resources:

Steven Shapin, *Leviathan and the Air-pump* [ISBN: 9780691083933]

Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway 2012, *Merchants of Doubt*, Bloomsbury Publishing [ISBN: 9781408824832]

Michael S. Sherry 1987, *The Rise of American Air Power*, Yale University Press [ISBN: 9780300036008]

Thomas S. Kuhn 2012, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, University of Chicago Press [ISBN: 9780226458120]

Loren Graham 1993, *The Ghost of the Executed Engineer*, Harvard University Press [ISBN: 9780674354364]

Richard S. Westfall 1983, *Never at Rest: A Biography of Issac Newton*, Cambridge University Press [ISBN: 9780521274357]

Bruno Latour, Steve Woolgar 1986, *Laboratory Life*, Princeton University Press [ISBN: 9780691028323]

Francis Spufford, *Red Plenty* [ISBN: 0571225233]

END OF LISTING OF MODULES