



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

MA IN HISTORY, 2026-27

OPTIONAL MODULES – 10 ECTS

Note: Both full-time and part-time students are expected to take three optional modules. Normally at least two of these would be History modules, identifiable by the HI code.

OPTIONAL MODULES OFFERED BY STAFF IN HISTORY

HI6108 Everyday lives: An Intimate History of Twentieth-Century Women -- Prof. Ciara Meehan (Taught as a week-long block, 4-8 Jan. 2027)

This module offers an intimate history of the everyday lives of women in the United States, Britain and Ireland. We will explore the lives, roles, experiences, and perceptions of 'ordinary' women during the twentieth century will be explored. Students will be introduced to an array of sources – including popular and visual culture, objects and digital sources, oral testimony and literature (fiction and memoir) – and to what they reveal about the manner in which women were perceived and represented; how women viewed themselves; and how women of different generations experienced, negotiated and reacted to social change. Fashion, consumerism, courtship, sexuality, and advertising are among the areas considered for what they reveal about women and the world around them. Such themes will be analysed within the context of continuity and change across the twentieth century and three geographical perspectives. The module will conclude by questioning the extent to which women's movements were representative of 'ordinary' women.

HI6106 Issues in Local History – Prof. Breandán Mac Suibhne (Sem. 2)

Drawing on monographs and general studies, this course invites students to consider how different social groups experienced the profound changes that transformed urban and rural communities across Ireland from the mid-eighteenth through the early twentieth century. Although the course traces political developments, it pays equal attention to socioeconomic and cultural issues, including the shift from high fertility to sexual restraint; patterns of emigration, consumption and social unrest; improvements in education and literacy; linguistic change; changing devotional practices and cultural 'revival' in the late 1800s.

HI6107 Historical Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity: 'Race' and Reparative Histories -- Dr Anita Rupprecht (Sem. 2)

This module explores the role of cultural memories and histories in relation to questions of reparative justice within the specific contexts of 'race', identity, transatlantic enslavement and empire. Drawing on recent key debates about reparations and ideas of the 'reparative', the module analyses and problematizes the ways in which the relationship between the past and the present is negated, negotiated, contested or constructed. Across the module, memory is considered as a

means through which identities are understood and expressed, and as a contested realm of social and political struggle. The primary focus is on the Caribbean, and how the memory and legacies of slavery in and slave-trading to the region are remembered in Europe, the USA and West Africa. Module topics can be flexible in relation to student interests and may include questions of how the legacies of empire and enslavement are interpreted and represented in relation to recent historiographical developments as well as in terms of cultural forms and practices, e.g. in commemorative practice, museology, archives, literary fiction, autobiography and historical film. Throughout, the module critically considers the question of to what extent, and how, one might 'do' reparative history.

HI6112 Work Placement (limited places available) – Dr Gearóid Barry (Sem. 2)

This module consists of a placement with a local organisation to work on a topic related to History. Students will work part-time in person and/or remotely over the twelve weeks of the semester on a task devised by the organisation and approved by the History Department. The module will allow students to apply their historical knowledge and critical competencies to a workplace setting and to further develop their transferable skills. As places are limited, students will be invited early in Sem. 1 to express interest. Selection for specific placements may involve an interview. In advance of the placement, students will attend an Advisory/CV workshop and another workshop on Interview Skills. Assessment will be by means of a reflective journal and a report from the mentor based at the hosting organisation.

OPTIONAL MODULES OFFERED BY COLLEAGUES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS

PI6110 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence – Dr Heike Schmidt-Felzmann (Sem. 1)

Artificial intelligence technologies have evolved dramatically in recent years, impacting on many areas of human life. Societal responses to these developments have ranged from enthusiastic optimism to deep suspicion. The module will explore prominent ethical issues arising in relation to the design, use and societal impact of Artificial Intelligence. Topics addressed in the module include: embedded values, ethics by design and trustworthiness of AI; Privacy, consent, dark patterns and contextual integrity; Algorithmic fairness, bias and algorithmic governance; Assistance and surveillance; Datafication, surveillance capitalism and monopoly; AI and the workplace; generative AI; relational artificial agents, autonomous artificial agents and responsibility; AI and the environment; AI risk and safety.

MIC6100 Resisting through Culture: Conflicts in Europe and Beyond – Dr Deirdre Byrnes (Sem. 2)

This module explores the transformative power of culture in times of conflict, considering, in particular, the literature that emerged in the latter half of the twentieth century following the post-war division of Europe. Works by Peter Schneider, Ivan Klíma, Václav Havel, Herta Müller and Malala Yousafzai form the focus of analysis. Situating these texts within their socio-political contexts of division and conflict, the module explores how literature and culture can be harnessed to facilitate and express resistance within and against totalitarian systems.

FM6119 Film, Politics, and Colonialism – Dr Fiona Bateman (Sem. 2)

This module considers the significance of film as a mode of cultural production, the politics of representation, and the role of 'national' cinema. The films viewed and analysed address subjects including colonial history, marginal groups, conflict, resistance, gender, and postcolonial realities. Students will consider aspects of those films including genre, theme, and narrative structure. The political and historical circumstances of their production will also be discussed and analyzed.

SP6122 Social and Political Context of Activism and Advocacy – Dr Su-Ming Khoo (Sem. 2)

This course provides an introduction to the social and political context of international advocacy and activism. It links local, national and international contexts for advocacy and activism, drawing upon historical, sociological and political perspectives on the rise of international campaigning for social justice. It explores the relationships between the state, market and civil society, charting the dynamic emergence of new social and political actors in local and transnational public advocacy.