HIS 389Y1Y Topics in History: From Famine to Freedom: Irish History in an International Context

This course explores Irish history from 1798 to the present within the context of Irish migration and settlement across the globe. Key themes include British-Irish relations, the plantations of Ireland, wars of religion, the Great Irish Famine, and the Revolutionary Period in 19th and 20th century Ireland. Through primary documents, visits to historic sites, and research assignments students will examine the results of voluntary and involuntary Irish migration that came as a result of economic dislocation, religious persecution, political struggles, and the Famine. Notable will be the continued engagement of the "diasporic Irish" in Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States with the unfolding of events in Ireland.

Exclusion: SMC370H1/SMC348Y1Y
Instructor: M. McGowan
Location: Maynooth University, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland
Time: July 30, 2018 to August 24, 2018; Mondays to Thursday 9:00-Noon

Evaluations
The course offers several types of student evaluations. First, the course begins with a short thematic essay on Irish identity in a global perspective. Students are required to read the essays designated for the assignment and write a formal essay responding a statement on Irish identity.

Each Monday, (Makers of Ireland) students will begin by making presentations to their peers on a significant historical figure relevant to the week’s topic. The 3 minute presentation will identify some key biographical features of the “Maker of Ireland” and indicate this individual’s significance to Irish history. At the end of the presentation the student will submit a maximum one page single-spaced summary of the presentation with the relevant sources used to prepare the presentation.

On the first Tuesday there will be a short map quiz on the geography of Ireland.

Each Thursday there will be a field trip to places of significance reflecting the theme of the week. Each field trip requires the student to examine how Irish history is interpreted. After each trip students must write a reflection paper on the “Interpretation” question offered on the syllabus. These 5-7 typed page reports are to be submitted the following Monday. The students
may use course reading, lectures, and the text to help them reflect on the questions, though their experiences at each historic site will be their most important reference point.

**Pre-Departure Assignment**

Based on the seven readings mounted on the course black board page, write a short (1,500-2,000 word) 6-8 page essay addressing the statement: *Irish identity has been partially formed by religion and place.* Proper essay format is required (Chicago or MLA style) with footnotes or endnotes citing the readings designated for the assignment. The essay should be emailed directly to the professor by Noon on July 25, 2018, mark.mcgowan@utoronto.ca


1. R.V. Commerford, “Deference, Accommodation, and Conflict in Irish Confessional Relations” 33-51

**Week One: July 30-August 2**

**The Conquest of Ireland**

Monday  
Lecture: Introduction to the Course, Ireland: Land and People  
The Makers on Monday, Oral Presentation  
Lecture: The Tudors and the Irish Conquest

Tuesday  
Lecture: Plantation, Confederation, Cromwell & the Boyne  
Map Quiz  
Lecture: Religion in Ireland

Wednesday  
Lecture: Ascendancy in Ireland and Everyday Life in Ireland  
Lecture: Rebellion of 1798 & Union
Thursday: Field Trip to the Boyne Valley: New Grange & The Battle Site

**Interpretation Assignment:** By your observations in the Boyne Valley, how important do you think “place” is to historical events? Why do you think the *Bru’na Boinne* site was chosen for these structures? The Hill of Tara? Was the battle site the wisest ground to contest the Orange Army? Integrate what you have learned about conquest in your week’s lectures.

**Week Two: August 6 to August 9**

**The Great Irish Famine**

Monday: Lecture: Politics of Emancipation & Union  
The Makers on Monday, Oral Presentations  
Lecture: Causes of the Great Irish Famine

Tuesday: Lecture: The Great Hunger  
Docudrama: *Death or Canada*

Wednesday: Lecture: The Diaspora to British North America & the United States  
Lecture: Orphans, Domestics, & Convicts—Diaspora to Australia

Thursday: Fieldtrip to Strokestown Park House & National Famine Museum

**Interpretation Assignment:** Comparing the docudrama and the exhibits in the National Famine Museum, how do each interpret the famine? Can you detect the ways in which evidence is used in each? How do the film makers, curators, and historians engage facts and interpretations? Integrate what you have learned about the Famine in your week’s lectures.

**Week Three: August 13 – August 16**

**Rebellion & Revolution**

Monday: Lecture: Fenians & The Land League  
The Makers on Monday  
Lecture: The Struggle For Home Rule

Tuesday: Lecture: Nationalism in the Diaspora  
Lecture: Home Rule Acts

Wednesday: Lecture: The Great War, Ireland & Diaspora  
Lecture: The Rising and Civil War

Thursday: Field Trip To Dublin: GPO, Kilmainham Jail, Collin’s Barracks

**Interpretation Assignment:** How do various interpretations of the Easter Rising differ in the three principal historical commemorations of the event in Dublin? In
what ways do the exhibits betray a political or historical bias. Integrate what you have learned about the Irish uprising from your class lectures.

**Week Four**  **August 20-August 24**

**Monday**
Lecture: Two Irelands
Makers on Monday
Lecture: The Emergency, the Diaspora, & the Republic

**Tuesday**
Lecture: The Troubles & America
Lecture: The Rocky Road to Good Friday

**Wednesday:**
Lecture: The Celtic Tiger & the Ship of Fools
Lecture: What May Brexit Bring?

**Thursday:**
Field Trip to Belfast: Titanic Museum, City Hall, Falls Road, Shankill Road, Queen’s University

**Interpretation Assignment:** In what way does the Titanic Museum speak to the nature of Irish identity as it does to the disaster it commemorates? Integrate what you have learned about the “Troubles” in class this week

**Grading and Assignments:**
Irish Identity Essay: 15
Makers of Ireland: 20
Tests & Quizzes: 5
Interpretation Assignments: 60