

FINAL YEAR MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Academic Year 2026–27

Semester 1

Seminar Modules (10 ECTS)

Choose ONE Seminar module

HI3213: The Irish Land War in Transnational Perspective

Lecturer: Andrew Newby

Module Description

This module explores 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 examines the transnational philosophical underpinnings, together with the social and economic characteristics of Ireland's nineteenth-century "land question," including the writings of **J.S. Mill**, **Karl Marx**, and **Henry George**.

The Irish diaspora—particularly in Britain, North America, and Australia, but also in many other parts of the world—played a crucial role in developing the Land League and shaping its demands.

Although the Land War is remembered as a vital foundation of Irish nationalism and a contributor to the struggle for self-determination and independence, the events of the early 1880s also had immediate repercussions overseas. These included movements in rural Scotland and Wales, as well as urban centres in Britain.

Historian **Jo Guldi** has argued that the Land War ultimately brought the British Empire "to its knee." Consequently, the Irish experience has continued to inspire indigenous and marginalised communities worldwide in campaigns for land rights.

Recommended Reading

- Dungan, Myles (2025). *Land is All That Matters*. Apollo. ISBN: **9781801108157**
- Guldi, Jo (2022). *The Long Land War*. Yale University Press. ISBN: **030025668X**
- Janis, Ely M. (2015). *A Greater Ireland*. University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN: **9780299301248**
- Marley, Laurence. *Michael Davitt*. ISBN: **1846820669**

- McCarthy, Tara M. (2018). *Respectability and Reform*. Syracuse University Press. ISBN: **0815635885**
 - Newby, Andrew G. (2007). *Ireland, Radicalism, and the Scottish Highlands, c. 1870–1912*. Edinburgh University Press. ISBN: **9780748623754**
 - Phemister, Andrew (2023). *Land and Liberalism*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: **1009202898**
 - Whelehan, Niall (2021). *Changing Land*. NYU Press. ISBN: **1479809551**
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HI3214: Irish Elites in the British Empire

Lecturer: Laurence Marley

Module Description

This module examines the career and status opportunities that an expanding British Empire offered to Irish professionals and elite administrators during the nineteenth century.

Using a transnational perspective, students explore imperial careers in education, engineering, medicine, law, policing, the military, and colonial administration. These professions were interconnected through a vast, diverse, and complex empire.

Primary sources include papers and archival records associated with individuals during their formative years at **Queen's College Galway** in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Recommended Reading

- Campbell, Fergus (2009). *The Irish Establishment*. ISBN: **978019923322**
 - Dickson, David (2012). *Irish Classroom and British Empire*. ISBN: **9781846823349**
 - Crosbie, Barry (2012). *Irish Imperial Networks: Migration, Social Communication and Exchange in Nineteenth-Century India*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: **978052111937**
 - Lambert, David (2006). *Language and Ethnicity*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: **9780521612**
 - Pašeta, Senia (1999). *Before the Revolution*. Cork University Press. ISBN: **1859182267**
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HI484: Slavery and Emancipation

Lecturer: Enrico Dal Lago

Module Description

This module provides students with the background necessary to select, interpret, and analyse the wide range of primary sources relating to American slavery within the context of current historical scholarship.

Topics include:

- Colonial Slavery
- The American Revolution
- The Planters' Worldview
- Plantation Mistresses
- Slave Culture
- Slave Resistance
- Antislavery
- The American Civil War
- Emancipation

Recommended Reading

- Halpern, Rick & Dal Lago, Enrico. *Slavery & Emancipation*. Blackwell, 2002.
- Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery, 1619–1877*. Hill & Wang, 2003.
- Berlin, Ira. *Generations of Captivity: A History of African American Slaves*. Harvard University Press, 2002.
- Dal Lago, Enrico. *American Slavery, Atlantic Slavery, and Beyond*. Paradigm Publishers, 2012.

HI3112: The First World War: Transnational Perspectives

Lecturer: Gearóid Barry

Module Description

The First World War mobilised entire societies for conflict on an unprecedented scale while raising enduring questions about coercion, consent, and violence in modern society.

The war was also a conflict of competing empires fought across the globe.

Using a transnational historical approach, this module compares national experiences across both major and smaller belligerent states—including Germany, France, Britain, and Portugal—through thematic study.

Themes include:

- Women's wartime labour
- Nationalism
- Religion
- Poison gas
- Submarine warfare
- Social and cultural change
- Continuity in gender roles

Students also engage with debates surrounding remembrance, Armistice Day commemorations, historical controversies, and popular representations such as the film *1917*.

Recommended Reading

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

Semester 1

Seminar Modules (10 ECTS)

Choose ONE Seminar module

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

Lecturer: Tomás Finn

Module Description

This module explores the power struggles that shaped Northern Ireland from the accession of Terence O'Neill in 1963 and the emergence of the civil rights movement through to the outbreak of violence in 1968, the escalation of conflict, and the collapse of Stormont in 1972.

The module examines a variety of strategies employed by those seeking political and social change, including:

- Political activism
- Mass demonstrations
- Propaganda
- Armed struggle

It also considers the different approaches adopted by governments in attempting to contain unrest. Seminar discussions focus on historical interpretations and primary evidence while examining events from the perspectives of the various individuals and groups involved.

Recommended Reading

- Hennessey, Thomas (2005). *Northern Ireland: The Origins of the Troubles*. Gill & Macmillan. ISBN: **0717133826**
- Ó Dochartaigh, Niall. *From Civil Rights to Armalites: Derry and the Birth of the Irish Troubles*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: **9781403944306**
- Purdie, Bob (1990). *Politics in the Streets: The Origin of the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland*. Blackstaff Press. ISBN: **0856404373**

HI3215: The Boyne and After: Stuarts and Jacobites in European Politics, 1690–1788

Lecturer: Pól Ó Dochartaigh

Module Description

The Battle of the Boyne was one of the defining events in both Irish and European history. It confirmed the Protestant deposition of the Catholic James II from the thrones of Ireland, Scotland, and England.

Despite this defeat, the Stuart dynasty and its Jacobite supporters continued to challenge the legitimacy of the new British monarchy for almost sixty years. Political intrigue spread across Britain and continental Europe as supporters attempted to restore the Stuarts to the throne.

Although Jacobitism largely ceased to be a serious military threat following the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Stuart claims continued until the death of Bonnie Prince Charlie (Charles III) in 1788.

The module explores themes including:

- Religious loyalty
- Political legitimacy
- National identity
- Cultural allegiance
- European diplomacy
- Jacobite networks across Ireland, Britain, France, and Europe

Recommended Reading

- MacInnes, Allan I. (2025). *Conflict and Loyalty: Jacobitism in Europe and Beyond*. Reaktion. ISBN: **9781836390930**
- McLynn, Frank (2020). *The Jacobites*. Sharpe Books. ISBN: **9798645848262**
- Ó Ciardha, Éamonn (2004). *Ireland and the Jacobite Cause, 1685–1766*. Four Courts Press. ISBN: **9781851825347**
- Pittock, Murray (1998). *Jacobitism*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: **9780312213069**
- Szechi, Daniel (2019). *The Jacobites: Britain and Europe, 1688–1788* (2nd ed.). Manchester University Press. ISBN: **9781526139665**

HI3204: The Family in Irish Society

Lecturer: Shannon Devlin

Module Description

This seminar challenges the stereotypical image of the traditional Irish family by exploring the diversity of family life throughout Irish history.

Drawing upon modern family history methodologies, students investigate changing family structures and relationships over time.

Topics include:

- Gender roles
- Childhood

- Extended and multi-generational families
- Found family
- Singlehood
- Marriage breakdown
- Gossip
- Family loyalty
- Sibling rivalry

Students analyse a wide range of primary sources, including:

- Family papers
- Personal letters
- Photographs
- Genealogical records
- Census returns
- Migration records
- Newspapers and printed material

The module considers how family experiences differed according to class and explores whether there was ever a truly "typical" Irish family.

Recommended Reading

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

HI3206: Race, Enslavement and Representation in the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Atlantic World

Lecturer: Anita Rupprecht

Module Description

This seminar examines ideas and representations of race, gender, and enslavement throughout the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British Caribbean and wider Atlantic world.

Focusing on colonialism, identity, resistance, and power, students critically analyse primary and secondary sources to understand the experiences of enslaved people, enslavers, and anti-slavery campaigners.

Themes include:

- Colonial connections
- Race and identity
- Representation
- Creolisation
- Resistance
- Systems of enslavement
- Abolition

Recommended Reading

- Williams, Eric. *Capitalism and Slavery* (3rd ed.). University of North Carolina Press, 2021.
- Hall, Catherine. *Lucky Valley: Edward Long and the History of Racial Capitalism*. Cambridge University Press, 2024.
- Turner, Sasha. *Contested Bodies: Pregnancy, Childbearing and Slavery in Jamaica*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

HI3216: Ideas and Social and Political Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Ireland

Lecturer: Breandán MacSuibhne

Module Description

Drawing upon both primary and secondary sources, this seminar explores the transformation of ideas and institutions in nineteenth-century Ireland.

Students investigate the historical development of institutions such as:

- Public houses
- Fairs and markets
- Marriage
- The hedge school
- National schools

- Mass
- Gombeenism
- Wakes
- Outrage
- Begging
- Law
- Exile

A central component of the module is the completion of a substantial research paper examining the history of a chosen institution within a parish, county, barony, or other geographical area selected by the student.

Recommended Reading

- Bourke, Angela (1999). *The Burning of Bridget Cleary*.
- Delaney, Enda (2025). *Making Ireland Modern: The Transformation of Society and Culture*.
- Mac Suibhne, Breandán (2017). *The End of Outrage: Post-Famine Adjustment in Rural Ireland*. Oxford University Press.

Semester 1

Lecture Modules (5 ECTS)

Choose ONE lecture module

HI3195: Suffrage to Repeal: Women's Activism in Ireland and Britain, 1880–2016

Lecturer: Sarah-Anne Buckley

Module Description

This module examines the history of women's activism and feminism in Ireland and Britain from the emergence of the suffrage movement in the late nineteenth century through to the repeal of the Eighth Amendment in 2016.

Using a chronological and regional approach, students explore the development of successive waves of feminism within their wider political, social, and economic contexts.

Particular attention is given to:

- Suffrage campaigns
- Feminist movements
- Gender
- Social class
- Education
- Political activism
- Changing expectations for women

Recommended Reading

- Connolly, Linda. *The Irish Women's Movement: From Revolution to Devolution*. 2003.
- Crawford, Elizabeth. *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain and Ireland*. Routledge, 2006.

Semester 1

Lecture Modules (5 ECTS)

Choose ONE lecture module

HI3210: The British Empire – Imperialism and Resistance

Lecturer: Anita Rupprecht

Module Description

This module explores the growth of the British Empire from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth century while examining its continuing global legacies.

Students are introduced to major historical debates surrounding imperialism, colonialism, and resistance. The module begins with the development of the British Atlantic World, the Atlantic Revolutions, and the expansion of the East India Company's influence in the Indian subcontinent before examining Britain's nineteenth-century empire in India, Australia, and Africa.

The course concludes by considering Britain's role in the imperial "Scramble for Africa" and the expansion of empire before the First World War.

Topics include:

- Imperialism
- Colonialism
- Atlantic revolutions
- The East India Company
- India
- Australia
- Africa
- Resistance to empire
- British identity

Recommended Reading

- Levine, Philippa. *The British Empire: From Sunrise to Sunset*. Longman, 2007.
- Stockwell, Sarah. *The British Empire: Themes and Perspectives*. Blackwell, 2008.
- Satia, Priya. *Time's Monster: History, Conscience and Britain's Empire*. Penguin, 2022.
- Gopal, Priyamvada. *Insurgent Empire: Anticolonial Resistance and the Making of British Dissent*. Verso, 2020.
- Harling, Philip. *Managing Mobility: The British Imperial State and Global Migration, 1840–1860*. Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Semester 2

Lecture Modules (5 ECTS)

Choose THREE lecture modules

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

Lecturer: Shannon Devlin

Module Description

This module explores Irish society through the lens of gender and sexuality during the long nineteenth century.

Students examine how ideas of masculinity and femininity varied across different social classes and investigate changing attitudes towards sexuality, morality, and religious influence.

Key themes include:

- Gender roles
- Masculinity and femininity
- Illegitimacy
- Birth control
- Institutionalisation
- Sexuality outside marriage
- Breach of promise
- Criminalisation of same-sex relationships
- "Deviant" sexuality
- Religion and morality

By the end of the module, students will understand how gendered expectations shaped the experiences of men and women and influenced Irish society more broadly.

Recommended Reading

- Ferriter, Diarmaid (2012). *Occasions of Sin*, Chapter 1.
- Redmond, Jennifer & McAuliffe, Mary (eds.). *The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland: A Reader*. Four Courts Press, 2024.

HI362: Party and Power in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century British History

Lecturer: Laurence Marley

Module Description

This module examines the relationship between political power and the development of political parties in Britain between approximately 1800 and 1918.

Lectures analyse the interaction between ideology, social and economic change, political organisation, leadership, and mass political mobilisation.

Major topics include:

- The Great Reform Act (1832)

- Electoral reform
- Political culture
- Chartism
- Empire and party politics
- Suffragist and suffragette movements
- Labour politics
- The decline of the Liberal Party
- The impact of the First World War

Because Britain and Ireland were united politically after 1801, this module provides valuable context for students studying nineteenth-century Irish history.

Recommended Reading

- Lee, Stephen J. *Aspects of Modern British History, 1815–1914*.
- Evans, E. J. *The Great Reform Act, 1832*.
- Chase, Malcolm. *Chartism: A New History*.
- Parry, Jonathan. *The Rise and Fall of Liberal Government in Victorian Britain*.
- Blake, Robert. *The Conservative Party from Peel to Major*.
- Pugh, Martin. *The March of the Women: A Revisionist Analysis of the Campaign for Women's Suffrage, 1866–1914*.

HI3207: The Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1450–1870

Lecturer: Anita Rupprecht

Module Description

This survey module explores the development of the transatlantic slave trade between 1450 and 1870.

Using both primary sources and key historical scholarship, students examine the origins, expansion, and consequences of the trade while considering its impact on Africa, the Americas, and the wider Atlantic world.

Topics include:

- Origins of the slave trade

- The Middle Passage
- Africa and the Atlantic world
- Plantation economies
- Abolition movements
- The end of enslavement
- Racialised labour systems

Recommended Reading

- Rediker, Marcus. *The Slave Ship: A Human History*. Penguin, 2008.
- Eltis, David & Richardson, David. *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*. Yale University Press, 2015.
- Thornton, John. *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400–1800*. Cambridge University Press.
- Harris, John. *The Last Slave Ships: New York and the End of the Middle Passage*. Yale University Press, 2020.
- Blackburn, Robin. *The Reckoning: From the Second Slavery to Abolition, 1776–1888*. Verso, 2024.
- Klein, Herbert S. *The Atlantic Slave Trade*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Semester 2

Lecture Modules (5 ECTS)

Choose THREE lecture modules

HI3100: Brave New World – Globalisation Since 1945

Lecturer: Kevin O'Sullivan

Module Description

This module examines the phenomenon of globalisation and its importance in understanding the world since the end of the Second World War, particularly from the 1970s onwards.

Students explore the political, economic, and social processes that made the world increasingly interconnected and interdependent during the second half of the twentieth century.

Beginning with the establishment of the United Nations and concluding with the anti-globalisation movement and the "Battle of Seattle" in the late 1990s, the module examines the organisations, ideas, and movements that shaped modern globalisation.

Key themes include:

- The United Nations
- International organisations
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Social movements
- Human rights
- Environmentalism
- Consumerism
- Global capitalism
- Rising inequality
- Anti-globalisation movements

Students consider how these developments have influenced the contemporary world.

Recommended Reading

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

HI3196: The Great Irish Famine

Lecturer: Breandán Mac Suibhne

Module Description

This module begins by examining famine as a historical phenomenon, with particular attention given to famine in pre-modern Europe.

It then moves to an in-depth analysis of the Irish Great Famine (1845–1850), exploring its causes, progression, consequences, and historical significance.

Students examine the social, political, economic, and cultural impact of the famine while engaging with key historical debates surrounding one of the most significant events in Irish history.

Recommended Reading

- Ó Murchadha, Ciarán. *The Great Famine*. Continuum, 2011.
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HI3218: Famine in Nineteenth-Century Europe and Its Empires

Lecturer: Andrew Newby

Module Description

This lecture module examines the occurrence of famine throughout Europe and European colonial empires between the Irish Great Hunger and the end of the First World War.

Using the Irish experience as a point of comparison, students investigate the causes, impacts, and long-term consequences of nineteenth-century famines across different regions of the world.

Topics explored include:

- Colonial administration
- Relief policies
- Famine roads and public works
- Emergency food supplies
- Humanitarian responses
- Charity and philanthropy
- Responsibility and culpability
- Collective memory
- Political uses of famine
- International solidarity

The module encourages students to compare different famine experiences while considering how famine has been remembered and interpreted over time.

Recommended Reading

- Arnold, David (1988). *Famine*. Wiley-Blackwell.

- Davis, Mike (2017). *Late Victorian Holocausts*. Verso.
 - de Waal, Alex (2018). *Mass Starvation*. Polity.
 - Devereux, Stephen (1993). *Theories of Famine*. Prentice Hall.
 - Götz, Norbert, Brewis, Georgina & Werther, Steffen (2020). *Humanitarianism in the Modern World*. Cambridge University Press.
 - Ó Gráda, Cormac (2009). *Famine*. Princeton University Press.
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HI3219: Science and Technology from the Scientific Revolution to the Climate Crisis

Lecturer: Jim Livesey

Module Description

This module introduces advanced undergraduate students to major historical debates surrounding the development of science, technology, and scientific institutions from approximately 1500 to the present day.

The course is divided into three broad sections:

1. **The emergence of modern science** during the early modern period.
2. **Scientific and technological practice**, with particular emphasis on the life sciences (1800–2020) and the history of space exploration.
3. **Contemporary challenges**, focusing especially on science, technology, and the global climate crisis.

Throughout the module, students explore how scientific knowledge has been created, challenged, and applied across different historical contexts.

Recommended Reading

- Shapin, Steven. *Leviathan and the Air-Pump*.
- Oreskes, Naomi & Conway, Erik M. *Merchants of Doubt*. Bloomsbury, 2012.
- Sherry, Michael S. *The Rise of American Air Power*. Yale University Press, 1987.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. University of Chicago Press, 2012.
- Graham, Loren. *The Ghost of the Executed Engineer*. Harvard University Press, 1993.

- Westfall, Richard S. *Never at Rest: A Biography of Isaac Newton*. Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Latour, Bruno & Woolgar, Steve. *Laboratory Life*. Princeton University Press, 1986.
- Spufford, Francis. *Red Plenty*.