Historical and Political Perspectives
On Irish Law and Culture
Fall 2015

Syllabus, Course Requirements,
Texts and Papers

(Subject to Change)

Irish Studies Course (IRST) Catalog No. 3366, Section NB (Class No. 1385)
MLA Irish Studies (MLIRS) Course Catalog No. 5366, Section N (Class No. 2645)
International Studies (INST) No. 4393, Section NA (Class No. 1137)
MLA International Studies (MLINS) No. 6393, Section NB (Class No. 2685)
History Course (HIST) No. 4393, Section N (Class No. 1401)
MLA History (MLHIS) Course No. 6393, Section N (Class No. 2654)

(UST Fall 2015)
Class schedule:
Thursdays, 5:30 to 8:15 p.m.
Classroom: William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies
4206 Yoakum Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006

(or other classroom, as designated by Prof. Gallagher)

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Office Hours:
Tuesdays 2-4 p.m.
Wednesdays 10-12 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.
or by appointment
(Please make an appointment even during office hours)
Syllabus

Description:

This course explores the historical and political perspectives of Irish law and culture as a means of social expression. One focus will be on Irish and English laws affecting the Irish throughout key periods in history, such as the English and Scottish plantations in Ireland and land confiscations, the flight of the Irish from Ireland in response to English laws and other events and key insurrections and uprisings. Students will analyze the role of law and politics in shaping history and culture.

Topics will include concepts that begin with the early Irish Brehon laws and follow through history, including concepts of hospitality, “honor price”, the rights of the individual vs. the rights of the family (kinship group), tribe or clan, property ownership and control, inheritance and marital rights, fosterage, the rights of women and children, freedom of religion, association and expression, the role of the Church in history, politics and culture, the relationship between Church and State, the role of the aristocracy, the middle and lower classes in the development of a society, social, political, cultural and religious identity and power, economic development and conditions, trade restrictions, political and social movements, nationalism, invasion, conquest, war and rebellion, shifting alliances, and attempts to gain independence and self-government through both violent/illega/military means as well as peaceful/legal/constitutional/political means.

Readings include historical accounts and texts, political speeches, character studies, legislation, excerpts from judicial proceedings, literature and other works.

Class Structure:

This is a survey class. Classes will be comprised of a mixture of lecture and class participation through the use of the Socratic method of question and answer and group discussion. The class will be conducted primarily as a seminar. Class attendance and active participation are required and are critical to achieve the objectives.

Objectives:

1. To expand the students’ knowledge of the Irish and English legal and political systems, as compared to those systems in the United States, through
legislation, judicial proceedings, political speech, commentary and other readings. Legal topics will include those regularly appearing in Irish history and culture, such as charges of treason and other alleged rebellious acts, the right to a trial before imprisonment or other punishment and the roles of judges and juries.

2. To explore how law mirrors and fuels change in current and historic events, including how social order among people of different racial, political, cultural and religious backgrounds has affected their treatment under the law in Ireland.

3. To critically analyze how historical, political, social and cultural conditions shape the law and vice versa, as well as to examine the interplay among law, politics and culture in the development of Ireland.

4. To examine how historical events build upon each other and shape the following generation’s law, politics and culture and how recurring events and drivers shape societies and events.

5. To examine the role of shared and differing cultures in defining the direction and political character of a society.

6. To examine the role of religion in the development of a society and its impact on relations with other societies with different religious beliefs.

7. To examine the role of economics in the relationship between a conquering and conquered country and the impact of colonialism.

8. To bring to life some of the key Irish historical, political, legal, cultural and literary figures of the times.

9. To review how historical developments in Ireland contrasted with events in Europe and North America, in particular (i) the impact of the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, (ii) the ascendancy of the British Empire and its relations with Ireland, France, Spain and other countries, (iii) the revolutionary periods in France, America and Russia, (iv) the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution, and (v) the creation and freedom of America.
10. To review the role of mutual respect within a society for those of differing cultural or ethnic backgrounds or identities, religions or socio-economic classes.

11. To enhance critical analytical thought and interpretation through self and group study, class participation, oral presentation and writing.

Texts for Course

Reading List:

Primary, Required:

• A New History of Ireland
  by Christine Kinealy
  ISBN 0-7509-2819-0, Sutton Publishing
  2004, updated in 2008 and 2013 (2013 version may be on line only)
  Get most recent version possible
  Doherty Library Call No.: DA 910 .K56 2004

• The Course of Irish History
  by T.W. Moody and F.X. Martin (4th ed.)
  2001, most recent edition is 2012 (Fifth Edition)
  Doherty Library Call No.: DA 910. C86 1995

• The Voice of the Irish: The Story of Christian Ireland
  by Michael Staunton
  ISBN 1-58768-022-X, Hidden Spring, an imprint of Paulist Press
  2003
  Doherty Library Call No.: BR 792 .S73 2003

Secondary (on Reserve in Doherty Library): (selected excerpts may be assigned)

• Field Day Essays: The Tree of Liberty, Radicalism, Catholicism and the Construction of Irish Identity, 1760-1830
  by Kevin Whelan
  ISBN 0-268-01894-4
  Doherty Library Call No.: DA 948.4 .W47 1996
• *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* (Vol. I-III)
  Doherty Library Call No.: PB 1345 .F53 1991 (same for all volumes)

*Suggested Secondary and Resource Materials*  
(On Reserve in Doherty Library):

• *A Guide to Early Irish Law*, by Fergus Kelly  
  ISBN 09 01 282952, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies 1988  
  Doherty Library Call No.: KDK156 .K45 1988

• *Ireland: A Concise History*  
  by Maire and Conor Cruise O’Brien  
  Doherty Library Call No.: DA 911 .O24 1972 A (will reserve newer edition)

• *A History of Ireland*  
  by Peter and Fiona Somerset Fry  
  Doherty Library Call No.: DA 910. S68 1988

*Prepared Text by Lori Gallagher (on memory stick or to be given later)*

• This Syllabus, Course Requirements, Texts and Papers Document
  
• Weekly Course Readings with Discussion Topics
  
• Guidelines for Writing Papers

• Doherty Library Irish Studies User Guide (on-line)
  
• Maps
  
• English Rulers
**Strongly Recommended Secondary Sources:** (not required but extremely helpful)

- *Oxford Companion to Irish History* (can be ordered through Barnes and Noble or other booksellers; takes a week or two usually; on reserve in Doherty Library; ISBN: 019866270X, 2nd ed., Call No. REF DA 912 .O94 2002; and same number without reference, 1998)

- *Center for Irish Studies Website:* [www.stthom.edu/irishstudies](http://www.stthom.edu/irishstudies) (many pages of links, including to History, Politics, Religion, Law, Literature and many more; also found under UST Website, Academic Programs, Centers of Excellence)

**Secondary Non-required Resource Materials:**

See other books listed on Gallagher Secondary Book List, as well as books in Doherty Library, William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies Library and Dr. McFadden’s Irish History reading list (see me for a copy if you are interested)

**Writing Manuals and Guides**

*Style Manual for Political Science* (used by International Studies)
Found at International Studies Website: [http://www.stthom.edu/intl_studies/](http://www.stthom.edu/intl_studies/)

*Chicago Style Manual*
[http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.html](http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.html)

*MLA Style Manual* (and on reserve in Doherty Library)
[http://www.mla.org/store&hzid=S181](http://www.mla.org/store&hzid=S181)

**General Themes**

- Brehon laws
- Individual rights vs. family, clan or tribal rights
- Hospitality
- “Honor Price”
- Property ownership and control
- Inheritance rights (real and personal property; succession)
• Marriage
• Divorce
• Children
• Fosterage
• Hostages
• Laws and legal system (charges, claims, trials, jurors, judges, punishment; differences among men, women, classes)
• Celtic and Irish heritage
• Invasions and Wars (effect of war on property ownership and transfers)
• Arrival of Christianity and the role of religion in political, social and cultural issues
• Effects of settlements and plantations of Vikings, Normans, English, Scots and others
• Settler people vs. indigenous people
• Conflicting cultural, socio-economic and religious identities
• Creation of the Church of England and Ireland
• Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation
• Penal Laws against Catholics
• English trade laws repressing Irish industry and trade
• Rebellions, uprisings, secret societies
• Nationalism and martyrdom
• Freedom of the press
• Personal rights (freedom of assembly and speech, right to vote)
• Land Reform and Home Rule
• Ireland’s struggle for independence and respect from England and internationally
• International public opinion and political influence

Grades and Requirements

Attendance: Attendance is required. Please be respectful of everyone by arriving on time, staying the entire period and being prepared. There are three excused absences. Grades will be reduced 5 points for each additional absence except for extraordinary reasons. If you know you have to be absent (wedding, funeral or any other extremely good reason), please contact me well in advance of class.

Class Participation: Class participation throughout the course will comprise 25% of the grade for undergraduates and 20% for MLA students. Each student will be responsible for being a discussion leader for assigned
readings, with advance notice. The instructor and the student discussion leaders will determine the topics to be covered in that class, identify additional resources available to enhance the primary topics and lead the class discussion.

*For all classes, students are expected to have read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it as well as to ask questions and provide insights regarding the readings and themes. If a student is not prepared for his or her presentation or for each class, points will be deducted from the grade for participation.*

**Basis for Grades:**

For undergraduate students, grades will be based upon the following: (i) weekly typed journals of 2 or more double spaced pages critically analyzing the readings as they relate to the discussion topics for each week (*email to me by noon on Wednesday before each Thursday’s class*), overall class participation, discussion on readings and demonstrated student interest (25%); (ii) one research paper of 8-10 typed pages (due December 3) (35%); and (iii) a final, comprehensive exam (40%). Failure to take the final exam results in an F.

For MLA students, (i) weekly typed journals of 2 or more double spaced pages critically analyzing the readings as they relate to the discussion topics for each week (*email to me by noon on Wednesday before each Thursday’s class*), overall class participation, discussion on readings and demonstrated student interest (including one in-class seminar presentation of the research paper on December 3) (20%); (ii) one research paper of 10-15 typed pages (due December 3) (35%); (iii) one book report of 5-10 pages (10%) (due November 5); and (iv) a final, comprehensive exam (35%). Failure to take the final exam results in an F.

**Deduction of Points:** Points will be deducted if weekly critical analysis journals and research papers do not meet the page and other requirements. (See above and separate Paper Guidelines.)

*As a prerequisite to receiving a passing grade, all assignments must be timely. If there is an emergency, please advise me as soon as possible.*

**Bonus Points:** Bonus point projects are due on Thursday, December 3 (last class) (can turn in earlier).
Up to five extra credit or bonus points may be obtained for special projects approved in advance, such as (i) a 2-4 page double space, 12 point typed paper on a film, novel or other work; (ii) a book review, as outlined below; or (iii) attending lectures, plays, performances or films on Irish topics sponsored by the Center of Irish Studies or approved by the instructor (one point per event).

**Weekly Journals:** Weekly journals are required on the primary assigned readings each week. Journals should have an objective summary section and a subjective commentary section. The objective summary section should summarize at least two key points from the readings. The subjective commentary section should provide the students’ reactions to the key points discussed in the objective section, applying critical analysis to the objective points discussed in the journals or making connections with points in the other readings, in class discussions or information obtained from the media, other courses or other world contexts.

The first page of the journals should have the student’s first and last name, journal number for that week’s readings (Weeks 2-15), the readings covered by the journal and the date the journal is submitted. All journals should be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font with only one double space between paragraphs. The journals should have page numbers located at the bottom of the page, centered, on pages 2 through the end (please use the insert page number feature instead of the footer feature to create your page numbers). Journals can be longer than 2 pages; a journal of 2-4 pages is preferred. **Please name your documents with last name first, first name, Week and Journal Number and date (Ex: Gallagher, Lori, Week 2, Journal 1, 9.3.15)**

**Papers:** Due on December 3, 2015 by **noon** by email only (last day of class).

Pick a theme that is **narrowly focused** and that has good quality primary and secondary sources available, if possible. (The topic may dictate the number of each type of source required. During the second and third weeks of class, make an appointment with me to discuss paper topics.) State a succinct thesis that boils down the issue researched and the results of the research.

Follow my Guidelines for Writing Papers. Papers must be documented properly using **MLA Style Manual**, the **Style Manual for Political Science** or the **Chicago Style Manual**. Use endnotes or footnotes, as you prefer, and
include a list of works cited or bibliography at the end. **Quality of writing and accuracy of documentation is paramount.**

All papers should be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font with only one double space between paragraphs. The first page of the paper should have the students’ name, date, title, course name and number. The paper should have page numbers located at the bottom of the page, centered, on pages 2 through the end (please use the insert page number feature instead of the footer feature to create your page numbers).

*With all papers, take time to research, analyze, outline, write, edit, rest and edit again. Use the spell check and grammar functions on your computers. Read papers out loud to listen for errors in grammar and catch mistakes in punctuation. Make an appointment with the student mentors/tutors in UST Tutorial Services to help you organize your paper before you start and, once it is written, consult with them to see how to improve your paper before you submit it. Do not wait to the last minute to seek their assistance.*

*If you would like to discuss a draft or outline of your paper with me, please make an appointment.*

**Book Reviews:** Graduate student Book Reviews are due on Thursday, November 5 (can turn in earlier). Bonus Point Book Reviews are due the last day of class, Thursday, December 3 (can turn in earlier).

**What I am looking for in a book review:** (i) Start with a short introductory paragraph on the author and key facts about the author that explain the author’s background and expertise; (ii) state a succinct thesis that boils down the issue researched and the results of the research; (iii) identify what you perceive to be the major purpose of the author in writing this book; (iv) in the next section, discuss the major ideas that support the thesis; (v) look for important conclusions and not just facts (take notes as you read so you do not forget the important impressions you have as you read); (vi) comment on how the book contributed to your understanding of Irish history, politics, law or culture and how valuable the book was in relation to the course; and (vii) conclude with a final reaction to the book, what you liked or did not like about it, and what else you wanted to know after reading the book.

All book reviews should be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font with only one double space between paragraphs. Book reviews should have page numbers located at the bottom of the page, centered, on
I will check for plagiarism of book reviews and other student work. Students who plagiarize will receive a zero for the book review and are subject to receiving an F for the course.

Mutual Respect for Others: Each person in class likely will approach the issues from a different perspective. Diverse perspectives and opinions are encouraged. Each student should treat every other student and the instructor with mutual respect, both personally and for the perspective or opinion stated. Each student should feel comfortable participating in class and should be prepared to conduct a dignified discussion.

Courtesy: Please do not use beepers, cell or mobile telephones, iPhones, Palm Pilots, Blackberries or similar devices in class and turn them off upon arrival. If an outside emergency arises, please have outside parties contact campus security at (713) 525-3888 and security will contact us in class. Please do not use email during class (including iPhones, Palm Pilots, Blackberries or other similar devices).
Computation of Grades:

Grade Scale:

93 – 100 = A  \hspace{1cm} 87 – 89 = B+ \hspace{1cm} 77 – 79 = C+ \hspace{1cm} 67 – 69 = D+
90 – 92 = A- \hspace{1cm} 83 – 86 = B \hspace{1cm} 73 – 76 = C \hspace{1cm} 60 – 66 = D
80 – 82 = B- \hspace{1cm} 70 – 72 = C- \hspace{1cm} 0 – 59 = F

See the UST Catalog for grade point equivalents and interpretation (pp. 68-69 of hard bound edition)

Grade percentages: See above.

I do not curve tests or grades. You can enhance your grade (to no higher than an A) with Extra Credit or Bonus Points described above.

Professionalism and Academic Honesty:

The University and I take professionalism and academic honesty very seriously. These moral and ethical values are important to the reputation of the University as well as your own career and reputation, not only at UST, but also throughout your life. A good reputation and respect from other professionals and your peers is critical to your life and career. Once they are lost, they are very difficult, if not impossible, to regain.

Displaying a positive, professional attitude and demeanor in class is very important to the atmosphere of the class. This positive, professional attitude carries over into timeliness for class, good attendance, active participation in class discussions, good preparation for presentations, timely and accurate submission of journals and other written work, respect for others’ perspectives and showing mutual respect for the other students and the professor.

The UST Handbook and the Undergraduate Catalog contain sections on academic honesty/dishonesty, including plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

1. Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;

3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected; and

4. Any conduct that reasonable people in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

All work presented for this course must be your own. Submitting course work other than your own constitutes grounds for receiving an F in the course.

Any paper produced for this course must be submitted only for this course and may not have been used for any other course. Submitting the same or parts of the same paper to more than one instructor without prior approval of both course instructors constitutes academic dishonesty and is grounds for receiving an F in the course.

Extra care must be taken in using the Internet and other sources. Always use quotation marks around the actual words found in parts or all of a source. Do not take facts or ideas from a source, even if reworded, and represent them as a fact or your own idea without source cites. Always give source cites for quoted material, facts that are not general knowledge (such as the sun rises in the east) and ideas or thoughts that you have obtained from other sources. Use frequent cites to sources throughout your written work, both throughout the paragraphs and at the end of paragraphs. When in doubt, use quotation marks and cites.

Critically analyze the material you gather from other sources rather than merely stringing together pages of quoted material. Demonstrate what you have learned in your research, thinking and writing, and make connections!

**Assigned Paper Topics:**

*Must discuss with instructor before you begin; avoid overly broad topics*

1. Select topic from class discussion topics in “Readings and Discussion Topics” document (in Gallagher Text and or in consultation with professor)

2. The Brehon Laws
3. Irish Beginnings: Select one: the Early Irish, the Celts, the Vikings, the Christians

4. St. Patrick and his influence on pagan Ireland and Christianity

5. St. Brigid and her influence on pagan Ireland and Christianity

6. The Role of the Irish Monasteries and/or other Irish Saints

7. The Invasion or “Conquest” by the Anglo-Normans

8. The Early Irish Kings

9. The Flight of the Earls

10. The English Plantations and Settlements

11. The Irish Rebellions of the 1600s

12. Oliver Cromwell and His Avenging Conquest

13. The Effect of the American Revolution on Ireland

14. The Effect of the French Revolution on Ireland

15. The United Irishmen, their struggle for Irish freedom and the 1798 Rising

16. Robert Emmet and the 1803 Rising

17. The Penal Laws

18. The Act of Union of 1800/1801

19. The Home Rule Movement

20. The birth of particular Irish political parties, including their characteristics, accomplishments and key figures during a particular time period in Irish history
21. Voting rights in Ireland (when they were won/lost for particular segments of society: landed vs. unlanded; Protestant vs. Catholic; men vs. women)

22. English rulers during a particular time period in Irish history, including their attitudes toward Ireland and manner of ruling Ireland

23. Compare the Irish Risings of 1798 and 1803

24. The Easter Rising of 1916

25. The Anglo-Irish War

26. The Irish Civil War

27. The role of the Church (Catholic, Protestant or both) during a particular time in Irish history, such as the Penal Law period.

28. Intensive research into the lives of key figures in Irish history, including their personal backgrounds, what motivated them, external factors and their writings and a theme encapsulating their lives (narrow focus)

29. The Spanish Armada

30. Topic approved by instructor (make certain topic is not too broad and that good quality original/primary and secondary source materials and other research materials are available before you ask for approval of the topic)

**Key dates affecting our class:**

**Graduate Book Reviews:** Thursday, November 5

**Research Paper:** Thursday, December 3

**Graduate Student Paper Oral Presentations:** Thursday, December 3

**Thanksgiving Break:** Thursday, November 26 (no class)

**Bonus Point Projects:** Thursday, December 5 (last class)
**Final Exam Due:** Friday, December 11

**Grades Due:** Monday, December 20