

**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Political Science/Sociology 373: Irish Politics & Society**

**Syllabus: Fall Semester 2017-18**

Dr. John Phyne  
Annex 110A

*Class Times:* Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:30; Thursday, 2:15 to 3:30.

Office Hours: Monday, 12:00 to 2:00 PM; Tuesday, 9:30 to 10:30 AM; Friday, 10:30 to 11:30 or by appointment.

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**Course Rules:** In order to have a productive semester, the following rules will be used in this course. If you do not want to abide by these rules, I suggest that you drop this course as soon as possible:

1. Turn off all cell phones at the commencement of class. If you use a cell phone in class, I will ask you to turn it off. If you refuse, I will end the class and report the matter to the Dean of Arts. Cell phone usage in class is a disrespectful and disruptive act.
2. Laptops are not permitted for taking notes. These devices are disruptive to the classroom environment.
3. There are no extra assignments or tests. If you perform below your expectations, it is your responsibility to see me so you can improve on your performance in the next test.
4. Your grade is your unit of concern. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade. I will not e-mail test results or calculate your grades for you. Come to class and collect your tests.
5. Academic Integrity: The Academic Integrity Policy may be found at: [http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrar\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/academic_integrity). Students do not need to be caught USING a device like a smart phone during a test or exam to be in violation of the policy. Simply having the unauthorized device on their person during the test or exam is a violation of the policy. In other words, put your cell phone away before the commencement of a test.
6. E-mail Policy: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. These include extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone are be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. You can also see me after class.

## Course Outline

This is a course on the historical and political sociology of Ireland. It is largely a critical analysis of Ireland in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Following in the tradition of C. Wright Mills, this course will examine the intersection among biography, history and social structure in Ireland. The first week will be an overview of Ireland prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The objective here is to set the context for the processes that governed much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There will be a brief coverage of the ‘peopling of Ireland’. This is to go beyond the stereotype of Ireland as primordial ‘Celtic Kingdom’. This is followed by an analysis of the Great Potato Famine (1845 to 1849) and the impact of this on the Irish diaspora and Irish nationalism. Next, we cover the Land War (1879 to 1882) and the Home Rule Campaigns (1880s and 1890s). These events informed the conflicts that impacted Ireland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The bulk of the course deals with Ireland (North and South) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ferriter’s (2005) text is the main reading. Ferriter is a social historian whose themes also resonate with political and sociological analyses. In 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland, the themes of: 1) partition and nationalism, 2) class and gender inequalities, 3) the rural and urban divide, 4) the perennial issue of out-migration, 5) the gradual decline of the Catholic Church, 6) the importance of the European Union, 7) the shift from an impoverished to a ‘booming’ nation in the Republic of Ireland, and 8) conflict and eventual accommodation in Northern Ireland, are discussed in Ferriter. We begin with his discussion of some of these issues in Ireland at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and see the development of these themes (1 to 5), and eventual emergence of other issues (6 to 8), over the course of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The course concludes with a brief examination of the implications of Brexit for Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

There are over 700 pages in the textbook. If you read 70 pages a week, you will easily cover it. If you don’t like to read, this is not a course for you. While many of the issues covered by Ferriter will be raised in class, you will need to read the text in order to do well in this course. There are no shortcuts. The Moodle section will have materials that accompany course lectures, examination outlines and the guidelines for your term paper.

## Textbook

Diarmaid Ferriter, **The Transformation of Ireland**. Woodstock: The Overlook Press, 2005.

**Evaluation:** There are three examinations and one term paper.

**Examination One:** Tuesday, October 3– 25 marks.

**Examination Two:** Tuesday, October 31 – 25 marks.

**Term Paper:** 20 per cent of your final grade Due in class (not under my door after class) on Tuesday, November 14. The paper will be discussed in class on Tuesday, September 12. The guidelines are in Moodle.

**Final:** 30 marks.

## **Required Readings**

### **Section One: Ireland Before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (two weeks)**

*Who are the Irish?*

No required readings.

*The Great Potato Famine and the Irish Diaspora, 1845 to 1852*

Cormac O Grada, "Making Irish Famine History in 1995", *History Workshop Journal*, 42, 1996, pp. 87-104 (in Moodle).

*Diaspora and Nationalism: Ireland in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

Anne Kane, "Narratives of Nationalism: Constructing Irish National Identity During the Land War, 1879 -1882", *National Identities*, 2(3), 2010, pp. 245-264 (in Moodle).

### **Section Two: The New Century: 1900 to 1912 (one week)**

Ferriter, Introduction, pp. 1 to 27; Chapter 1, pp. 28 to 109.

### **Section Three: Nationalism, Partition and Civil War: 1912 to 1923 (one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 2, pp. 110 to 185; Chapter 3, pp. 186 to 279.

### **Section Four: Free State in the South, Orange State in the North: 1923 to 1932 (one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 4, pp. 280 to 357.

### **Section Five: De Valera's Rule in Ireland?: 1932 to 1945 (one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 5, pp. 358 to 449.

### **Section Six: 'Modernizing' Ireland: 1945 to 1970 (two weeks)**

Ferriter, Chapter 6, pp. 450 to 535; Chapter 7, pp. 536 to 622.

**Section Seven: The European Union, Conflict in the North and Celtic Tiger in the South: 1970 to 2016 (three weeks)**

Ferriter, Chapter 8, pp. 623 to 759.

David Barrett (2016) “Irish general election 2016 report: whither the party system?”, *Irish Political Studies*, 31:3, pp. 418-431 (in Moodle).

**Section Eight: Ireland After Brexit? (one week)**

Dr. Mary C. Murphy, “Northern Ireland and the EU Referendum: The outcome, options and opportunities”, *The Journal of Cross-Border Studies*, 11, 2016, pp. 18- 32 (in Moodle).