

GOVT 391: Irish International Relations

Summer, 2012

Mike Tierney (mjtier@wm.edu)

2pm M-Th, Aras Moyola MY 123

This course offers an introduction to the study of “Irish International Relations.” The course is built around a series of questions that we will explore through the analysis of political science literature, historical documents, contemporary news items, and discussion sessions with experts (or participants in) Irish foreign policy. Some of these questions include: What are the historical roots of Irish foreign policy? How do Irish culture, identity, and domestic politics influence Irish foreign policy? Does the Irish penchant for neutrality in military affairs extend to other issue areas? Is Ireland more multilateral in its foreign policy than other small states in the international system? Does Ireland have a “special relationship” with any other countries in the world and, if so, how does this influence its’ foreign policy decisions?

We will explore these (and other) questions in a small number of distinct thematic sections of the course that focus on important historical or contemporary issues in Irish international relations. All members of this seminar-style course will have input on which issue areas that the class will discuss. In a normal research seminar each student would select a research topic and write a 20-25 page paper. Because of the condensed nature of this course, we will work in collaborative research groups in an effort to cover key themes in Irish foreign policy. Instead of a research paper, each group will be responsible for selecting readings, giving a formal presentation, and leading discussion during one section of the course.

As part of this course we will take a three day/two night trip to Dublin where we will meet with officials from the Irish government. We will also meet with representatives from Irish NGOs that have input into the policy process and attend a foreign policy seminar at one or more Irish universities where we will meet with academic experts on Irish foreign policy.

This course assumes no previous knowledge of Irish history, no experience analyzing survey data, and no background in the study of international relations. The texts for the course will include academic journal articles and book chapters, Irish government documents, and contemporary sources from the press.

There is one required book for this course: Ben Tonra, Michael Kennedy, John Doyle, and Noel Dorr, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Dublin: Gill and MacMillan, 2012. You can purchase this book online or you can purchase the book at the NUI Galway Bookstore. All other reading materials will be posted on the Blackboard Course Page.

In addition to the readings contained in the textbook and on the Blackboard site, **you will be required** to read a major daily newspaper with good coverage of international news from an Irish perspective. I would recommend the *Irish Independent* (the best-selling paper in Ireland)

and/or the *Irish Times* (a bit more left of center). Both are available online and are linked to our Blackboard site under “External Links.” Current international events will be integrated into lectures/discussions and they will be part of quizzes and exams. Spend 30 minutes per day reading the paper while you eat breakfast...it is painless.

Grades: Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance in class discussions, a group project/presentation, an essay, six reading quizzes, and a final examination. In the computation of your course grade, your performance on these requirements will be weighted as follows:

Group Project	20%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Class Participation	20%
Essay	15%
Final examination	30%

- *All late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late.*
- *No student can pass this course without completing **all assignments**.*
- *All students must submit assignments in hard copy and are responsible for retaining a hard copy of their papers until they have received a grade from the instructor. The only exception is for graded group projects and comments on the appropriate discussion board on our blackboard site.*

Other Policies:

Absence: Students are required to attend all classes. To reschedule a test or receive a paper extension because of an illness requires notice from a medical doctor. A hangover is not an acceptable illness.

Disability Services: Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should contact me on the first day of class. If you feel it is important for me to know that you have a diagnosed disability that will require accommodation, the Dean of Students Office must notify me.

Blackboard: All assignments will be posted on our course blackboard site. Occasionally I will make announcements to the class on the Blackboard site as well. Students should check Blackboard (and email) regularly for announcements and details on course assignments. In addition, our substantive conversations from class will occasionally spill over onto the course discussion board. I will occasionally ask you to answer a question or make some observation on our discussion board. These responses will be considered when calculating participation grades.

Rescheduled Class Meetings: As a result of the Geology field trips, which cut into our afternoon class meeting time, we will have to reschedule several class meetings. The default solution will be to have several 3 hour classes on either Tuesday or Wednesday in the third or fourth week of the class. However, if there is a consensus among the members of the seminar we could also have class meetings on Sunday or in the evening.

Examination: The final exam may include multiple choice questions, short identification questions, and/or an essay. The date of the examination follows:

Final Examination.

Thursday July 19th at 2pm.

Class Participation: Participation during class meetings is a required part of the course. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading and current events related to IR and Irish foreign policy. If you are not in class you are not participating. **If you are not participating, you will get a bad grade in this class.** Discussion provides an opportunity to critically question the ideas presented in the readings and the lecture and, more importantly, it offers students the chance to share their own ideas. This active involvement of students in their own education enables learning in a way that straight lecture does not. Occasionally I will ask you to lead our discussion on a particular topic. In those instances you will be “teaching” the class.

Reading Quizzes: Over the next four weeks there will be six reading/current events quizzes. The lowest of six grades will be dropped when determining course grades. The quizzes will not be analytically challenging. Instead, if you understand the basic topics, themes, and evidence from the required reading, you will do well. If you have read the newspaper over the past month and during this program, you will do well. The current events portion of the quizzes will focus on major international news items, Irish foreign policy, and Irish politics.

Group Project: A central part of this course involves collaborative research that you are doing outside of class time. Your group’s job is to teach the rest of us something that we don’t know about Irish IR. Your group will ask and answer a question about Irish IR/foreign policy that is theoretically or empirically interesting. You will collect and integrate evidence and you will consult sources that are outside of the required readings of the course, but you should make an effort to speak to the major themes of the course and/or the major themes in the study of International Relations. Your group will produce three outputs: a formal presentation; at least one reading for the class; and an annotated bibliography that you construct in the process of doing your research. Your group should get advice from the course instructor on selecting a question and methods for answering the question. Some example questions might include, but are not limited to:

Development Assistance: Why is Ireland considered to have such an effective foreign aid policy?
Or, How and why does Ireland allocate its aid like it does today?

Counter-terrorism Policy: How did Ireland’s policy toward the IRA shape its response to international terrorism after 9-11?

Disarmament Policy: Has Ireland “punched above its weight” in terms of international efforts at arms control and disarmament? If so, why?

Neutrality in Comparative Perspective: Why and when does neutrality “work?” IR theory suggests this is a dangerous strategy for states under anarchy, yet a number of states have chosen to adopt neutrality in military affairs. Did Ireland choose neutrality for the same reasons as Switzerland, Sweden, and other neutral states? What theories help to explain the choice of neutrality?

We could think of many other interesting questions and issue areas that are ripe for exploration might include: Emigration/Immigration; International Environmental Policy; Peacekeeping; European Integration; Trade and Investment Policy; and Human Rights. Students should start thinking about which issue area and questions they might like to pursue.

Essay on Irish Foreign Policy: On Tuesday July 3rd, all seminar participants will submit a three page essay on some contemporary issue in Irish foreign policy. You are allowed, but not required, to write on a topic that is related to your ongoing group project. This writing assignment is to be completed by each student independently.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Monday, June 25: IR Theories and Concepts

- Reading: Preface and Chapter 1 from Tonra, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Doyle et al, “Theories, Concepts and Sources.”
- Maliniak et al, “The Global Study of International Relations,”
- Optional: Shimko, *International Relations* (crucial if you have forgotten GOV, 204).
- Maliniak et al, *TRIP Around the World Survey*, May 2012. (See esp. “Ireland”)

Tuesday, June 26: History of the Irish Nation and State

- Reading: Chapter 2 from Tonra, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Kennedy, “The Foundation and Consolidation of Irish Foreign Policy: 1919-1945.”
- O’Toole, Introduction and Chapter 1, “The Lie of the Land,” 1998 pp xi – 17.
- Should also review Shimko reading on nationalism and sovereignty – see pp 2-12.
- Look at 5 different maps of Ireland that you find online.
- Optional: Chapter 5, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Hayes/Kingston, “Ireland in International Law.”
- Fitzpatrick, “The Geography of Irish Nationalism: 1910-1921,” *Past and Present*, 1978

Look at 5 different maps of Ireland that you find online.

Wednesday, June 27: Irish Identity, Foreign Policy and the European Union

Reading: Fintan O'Toole, *The Clod and the Continent: Irish Identity in the European Union*
Jane O'Mahony, "Ireland's EU Referendum Experience," *Irish Political Studies*, 2009.

Optional: Chapter 9, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Hayward, "European Union: National and Supranational Dimensions of Foreign Policy."

Guest Lecture by Professor Maurits Van Der Veen, Department of Government, W&M.

Thursday, June 28: Field Trip to Connemara Peninsula

Monday, July 2: From Cold War to Globalization

Reading: Chapter 3, *Irish Foreign Policy*, O'Driscoll, "Multilateralism: 1945-1973."
Chapter 4, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Dorr, "Interdependent World: FP Since 1973."

Tuesday, July 3: Politics, Policy and Increasing Pluralism

Reading: Chapter 6, *Irish Foreign Policy*, O'Brennan, "Government, Parliament, & CS."
Chapter 7, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Gillespie, "Civil Society & Irish Foreign Policy."

Essay Due at the beginning of class.

Wednesday, July 4: Transparency, Effectiveness, and Irish Foreign Aid Policy

Reading: Chapter 10, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Connolly, "Ireland's Foreign Aid Policy,"
Brookings *QUODA Report*
AidData search comparing Ireland to U.S. aid activities

Optional:

Thursday, July 5: Geology Field Trip to Lead Mine (Optional)

Friday, July 6: Foreign Policy in Practice

Briefings and Seminars in Dublin (Government and NGO Community)

Saturday, July 7: Foreign Policy in Practice

Briefings and Seminars in Dublin (Irish IR Scholars)

Monday, July 9:

Reading: Chapter 8, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Doyle, “British-Irish Relations and N. Ireland.”
Chapter 11, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Murphy, “UN Peacekeeping, Irish Experience.”

Tuesday, July 10

Reading: Chapter 9, *Irish Foreign Policy*. Hayward, “European Union: National and Supranational Dimensions of Foreign Policy.”
Chapter 12, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Barry, “Trade, Investment, and Integration.”

Wednesday, July 11: Group Project Presentations

2:00-3:20: Issue Area A

3:30-4:50: Issue Area B

Thursday, July 12: Field Trip to Marble Factory

Monday, July 16: Group Project Presentations

2:00-3:20 Issue Area C

3:30-4:50: Issue Area D

Tuesday, July 17:

Reading: Chap. 13, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Higgins, “Human Rights & Irish Foreign Policy”
Chap. 14, *Irish Foreign Policy*, Tonra, “Security, Defence, & Neutrality: The Irish Dilemma.”

Wednesday, July 18: Field Trip to Cliffs of Moher

Thursday, July 19: Final Exam from 2:00 – 3:30