

BCHIS6 Life in Modern Ireland

Module Coordinator: Dr Ciaran O'Neill ciaran.oneill@tcd.ie

Duration: Michaelmas Term

Contact hours: 2 lectures p/w, 6 tutorials

Maximum capacity: none

Assessment: Continuous assessment (100%): 1 essay and tutorial assignments

Date of essay submission: Monday of eleventh teaching week (to be confirmed)

Description: What do we mean by modern Ireland? Where is modern Ireland and when did it begin? Having broached these questions, this course will investigate what life was like on the island of Ireland across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Reflecting the increased focus on social and cultural themes in Irish historiography, this course will address the ways in which historians have, and are, tackling a broad range of societal questions. What characterised peoples' family, working and social lives? How did people interact with the apparatus of the state and of religious bodies? How did the evolution of media affect daily life? What forces and ideas shaped the provision of education and welfare? What impact did emigration have on both host and home societies? Key to the course is an understanding of what differentiated experiences; how did gender, class, geography and moral/status hierarchies of different kinds shape individual lives. It will also place the social history of Ireland in comparative and global contexts, in order to question ideas of Irish insularity and exceptionalism.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Outline chronologically and explain key developments in the history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ireland
- Assess the impact of social and cultural developments in shaping life in modern Ireland
- Discuss the social history of modern Ireland, including a comparative perspective
- Search for, and critically appraise, relevant literature
- Undertake an extended analysis of select contemporary sources
- Communicate analysis and argument in written and verbal format