BC Ireland in the 20th Century

Module Coordinator: Dr Anne Dolan adolan@tcd.ie

Duration: Michaelmas Term

Contact hours: 2 lectures per week, 6 tutorials

Maximum capacity: 20

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

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

Description:
Drawing on aspects of political, social, economic and cultural history, this module will consider the nature of Ireland’s twentieth century and the forces that shaped it. While this module will analyse the political changes that shaped the century from Home Rule and Unionism to revolution and independence, from dominion to republic, from self-rule to direct rule, from ‘ourselves alone’ to the EEC, it will also question the emphasis historians of the century have placed on the centrality of the political narrative. Throughout, the module will consider how methodologies from social, economic and cultural history raise significant challenges for the traditional study of Ireland’s twentieth century north and south.

By examining a wide range of sources and by considering a diverse range of experiences of Ireland’s twentieth century, this module will introduce students to the ways in which the historiography of twentieth century Ireland is changing and how it might continue to change. Placing the Irish twentieth century in a variety of broader contexts the module will also question certainties about Irish insularity and challenge assumptions that have taken Irish exceptionalism for granted.

Learning outcomes

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

- Outline chronologically and explain key developments in the history of Ireland during the twentieth century
- Assess the impact of these developments on Ireland
- Search for, and critically appraise, relevant literature
- Undertake an extended analysis of select contemporary sources
- Communicate analysis and argument in written and verbal format