

HI 1203

IRELAND c.1250-1500: GAELIC REVIVAL AND THE ENGLISH PALE

Course Organiser: Professor Seán Duffy (sduffy@tcd.ie)

Duration: Hilary Term (Jan-Apr)

Contact hours: 2 hrs per week plus tutorials

Weighting: 10 ECTS

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module begins in the aftermath of the English invasion of Ireland in the late twelfth century, examining the ensuing upheaval in Irish political life and in Anglo-Irish relations, and considers the course of the English attempt to conquer Ireland throughout the later Middle Ages; it ends in the run-up to the rebellion of Silken Thomas Fitzgerald in 1534, the failure of which ushered in Henry VIII's Protestant Reformation, often taken to mark the end of medieval Ireland.

Study is made of the socio-economic consequences of English colonization; the development of Dublin and other towns; and the economy of Ireland in the age of the Black Death. Attention is paid to the patterns of human settlement and the physical imprint of man on the landscape: where and how did people live, and what survives today in terms of archaeology and architecture? The process of change in Gaelic Ireland in the late Middle Ages; the ways in which Irish and English cultures clashed and blended; and the impact of war on medieval society and government – these are among the subjects likewise teased out during the module.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim:

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of political, social and ecclesiastical developments in Ireland during the Later Middle Ages, by introducing essential knowledge and key concepts.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- outline chronologically the key developments in Ireland c.1050-c.1500
- offer explanations for the key developments in the period

- evaluate the significance of those key developments and appreciate their impact on the subsequent course of Irish history
- search for, and critically appraise, relevant literature
- undertake an analysis of select contemporary records (in translation)

Personal and transferable skills:

This course is intended to sharpen skills in

- written and verbal communication (explanation and argument), through essay work and tutorial discussion
- capacity for independent learning, through preparation for essays and tutorials
- IT, including word-processing and internet retrieval, through preparation for tutorials and essays
- documentary analysis, through the study of extracts from primary (i.e., contemporary medieval) sources

Attitudinal Skills:

Specifically, this course is intended to enhance appreciation and awareness of

- the structures of medieval Irish society, how it functioned, and the ways in which it differed from or mirrored contemporary society elsewhere
- the role of the church in medieval Irish life
- patterns of settlement and the physical imprint of man on the landscape
- the implications of the English invasion
- the effects on Ireland of the assertion of English lordship, especially the ensuing upheaval in Irish political life
- the social, cultural and economic impact of English colonization
- the nature of the hybrid society that developed in later medieval Ireland.

3. ESSAY TITLES

1. In what ways did the arrival of the English affect the organization of society in Gaelic Ireland (including the role and power of kings)?
2. Evaluate the level of Irish opposition to English rule by the mid-thirteenth century.
3. Have historians underestimated the success of Henry III in strengthening English control over Ireland?
4. When and why did the English attempt to conquer Ireland fail?
5. 'Irish connections with Wales were, if anything, closer than those with Scotland'. Discuss, with reference to the period covered by this course.
6. Account for the emergence of the O'Neills as the dominant force in Gaelic Ireland in the later Middle Ages.
7. Have historians of the English colony in later medieval Ireland exaggerated the contrast between fourteenth-century decline and fifteenth-century recovery?
8. 'More Irish than the Irish themselves'. How accurate is this depiction of the English inhabitants of late-medieval Ireland?
9. How significant was the Gaelic cultural revival in later medieval Ireland?
10. What impact did the English 'Wars of the Roses' have on Ireland?
11. Compare and contrast the operation of the late-medieval church in Gaelic Ireland with that in the English colony.
12. How effective was the Irish parliament in the later Middle Ages?

4. INTRODUCTORY READING

Easy reads:

- Art Cosgrove, *Late medieval Ireland, 1370-1541* (Dublin, 1981) [out of print; available in library].
- Seán Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages* (London, 1997).
- R.F. Foster (ed.), *The Oxford illustrated history of Ireland* (Oxford, 1989).
- Robin Frame, *Colonial Ireland, 1169-1369* (Dublin, 1981) [out of print; available in library].
- Robin Frame, *The political development of the British Isles, 1100-1400* (Oxford, 1990).
- James Lydon, *The lordship of Ireland in the middle ages* (Dublin, 1972, 2nd edn 2003).

More difficult reads:

- Art Cosgrove (ed.), *A new history of Ireland II: medieval Ireland* (Oxford, 1987, 1993).
- Edmund Curtis, *A history of medieval Ireland* (2nd ed., London, 1938) [out of print; available in library].
- G.H. Orpen, *Ireland under the Normans* (1st published, Oxford, 1911-20; one-vol. edition, Dublin, 2005).
- A.J. Otway-Ruthven, *A history of medieval Ireland* (London, 1968, 1980) [out of print; available in library].
- R.R. Davies, *Domination and conquest: the experience of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 1100-1300* (Cambridge, 1990).

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Katharine Simms, *Medieval Gaelic Sources* (Dublin, 2009).

Aftermath of the invasion

- Billy Colfer, *Arrogant trespass: Anglo-Norman Wexford 1169-1400* (2001).
Peter Crooks, "'Divide and rule": factionalism as royal policy in the lordship of Ireland, c. 1171-1265', *Peritia*, 19 (2005), 263-307.
George Cunningham, *The Anglo-Norman advance into the south-west midlands of Ireland* (1987).
C.A. Empey, 'The settlement of the kingdom of Limerick' in *England and Ireland in the later Middle Ages* (see above, no. 73).
Idem, 'A case study of the primary phase of Anglo-Norman settlement: the lordship of Kells', *Old Kilkenny Rev.* 3 (1984), 32-40.

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The thirteenth century

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- Eadem, 'Naming practices among the Irish secular nobility in the high middle ages', *Journal of Medieval History*, 32 (2006), 43-53.

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- J.F. Lydon, 'The Bruce invasion of Ireland' in *Historical Studies IV*, ed. G.A. Hayes-McCoy (1963), 111-25.
- Idem, 'An Irish army in Scotland, 1296' *The Irish Sword*, 5 (1961-2), 184-90.
- Idem, 'Irish levies in the Scottish wars, 1296-1302', *ibid.*, 207-17.
- Idem, 'Edward I, Ireland and the war in Scotland, 1303-4' in *England and Ireland* (as above, no. 73), 43-61.
- Robin Frame, 'The Bruces in Ireland, 1315-18', *J.H.S.* 19 (1974), 3-37; reprinted with corrections in idem, *Ireland and Britain* (as above, no. 103), 71-98.
- Seán Duffy, 'The Bruce brothers and the Irish Sea world, 1306-29', *Cambridge Medieval Celtic Studies* 21 (1991), 55-86.
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- Dorothy Johnston, 'Richard II and the submissions of Gaelic Ireland', *I.H.S.*, 22 (1980), 1-20.
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- M.C. Griffith, 'The Talbot-Ormond struggle for control of the Anglo-Irish government, 1414-47', *I.H.S.*, 8 (1941), 376-97.
- Art Cosgrove, 'Parliament and the Anglo-Irish community: the declaration of 1460' in *Historical Studies XIV: parliament and community* ed. Art Cosgrove (1983), 25-41.
- S.G. Ellis, 'Parliament and community in Yorkist and Tudor Ireland' *ibid.*, 43-68.
- Katharine Simms, 'The king's friend: O'Neill, the Crown and the earldom of Ulster' in *England and Ireland* (as above, no. 73), 214-36.
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- Idem, 'Factions, feuds and noble power in the lordship of Ireland, c. 1356-1496.' *I.H.S.*, 35 (2007), 425-454.

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Gaelic Ireland in the later middle ages

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