HI 1101 Junior Freshman: Interpreting History: Warfare and conflict
Michaelmas term 2012

Historians often disagree. Disunity should not, however, be regarded by students as merely confusing and unhelpful. It is through argument that history develops and this module seeks to introduce students to debates, arguments and differences in historical approach and understanding. This is a lecture-only module held once per week. The theme for 2012-13 is warfare and conflict.

Module co-ordinator: Professor Alan Kramer

Lecture schedule and reading list
All lectures will be held on Fridays at 10am in Room 2041b, unless otherwise notified.

Week one 28 September
Introduction Professor Robert Armstrong

Weeks two and three 5 & 12 October
The English civil wars and revolution Professor Robert Armstrong

The 1640s and 1650s witnessed the most destructive civil conflict to be fought on English soil (and the mostly costly, in terms of human lives, until the Great War), the overthrow of the monarchy, the creation (for the only time in history) of a British Republic and an unprecedented outpouring of novel ideas on matters ranging from religious toleration to democracy. Two hundred years later the leading political parties in British life, the Whigs and Tories, still traced an affinity to the supporters of Parliament and of the King during those wars. Victorian politicians, British and Irish, argued heatedly about whether to erect a statue at Westminster to Oliver Cromwell, who had taken the leading role in the execution of Charles I in 1649 and the regime which replaced his rule. Unsurprisingly, such dramatic times have also been the subject of an exceptionally rich historical literature. From contemporary authors to present-day historians, attempts to explain the breakdown in English society, and the revolutionary events which followed, have drawn upon political, social, religious, cultural and economic developments. These lectures will introduce some of the more influential approaches adopted in the historiography of the English revolution, with a particular focus on formative ideas and on recent interpretations of the period.

Reading list
Primary sources
Edward Hyde, earl of Clarendon, History of the rebellion (1702-4): selected pages

Useful surveys of the historiography
Ann Hughes, The causes of the English civil war (2nd edition, 1998): the library has several copies of both of these books.

Some influential – and interesting – interpretations
Lawrence Stone, *The causes of the English revolution* (1972): available as an ebook through the library catalogue
John Morrill, Brian Manning and David Underdown, ‘What was the English revolution?’ *History Today* 34 (March, 1984), three short journal articles available online through the Library website

**Weeks four and five 19 & 26 October**

**The South African War, 1899-1902**

Professor Alan Kramer

The South African War (previously known as the ‘Boer War’) was the costliest of Britain’s imperial conflicts. It drew in half a million British soldiers to defeat a small army of Boer commandos, it had a devastating impact on Afrikaner civilian society, and, not least, it also involved the black African population whose role for a long time had been written out of the history books. There is little unity among historians as to the causes of the war. At different stages in the century since the war historians have focused on different groups of participants and victims of the war, largely as a result of political change in South Africa itself. There is controversy also in relation to the assessment of British counter-insurgency strategy.

**Reading list**

**Historiography:**


**Special aspects**


**Source:**


**Weeks six and eight 2 & 16 November**

**The 1641 rebellion in Ireland**

Dr Eamon Darcy

The 1641 rebellion was one of the most contentious events in Irish history. It was widely believed that Irish Catholics committed a wholesale massacre of Protestant settlers in the north of Ireland. These atrocities became a fundamental part of Protestant and later loyalist/Unionist identities in Ireland who used memories of the 1641 rebellion to justify the enactment of various anti-Catholic laws. Catholics, of course, denied that a massacre ever took place and criticised Protestant commentators' use of evidence for these claims. In more
recent times, historians have shied away from the sectarian dimension to the rising, making the 1641 rebellion one of the most hotly contested issues in Irish historiography.

Reading list


Focused readings on the themes of war and conflict:

Comparative article on the French Wars of Religion:

Weeks nine and ten 23 & 30 November

The 1857 Mutiny/Rebellion in India

Professor Mridu Rai

Beginning on 10 May 1857, a mutiny in the Indian rank and file of the Bengal Army of the English East India Company threatened to dislodge one hundred years of territorial control established through most of the subcontinent by the latter. It took nearly a year and a half to suppress the rebellion. What began as a mutiny of soldiers very quickly extended into a civil rebellion joined in by various classes of Indian subjects—extending from peasants to landlords to former princes to include a variety of Indian urban service groups. This Rebellion has been the subject of a variety of different historical interpretations: there are those who saw it merely as a product of military insensitivity to various cultural predilections of the specific group of Indians recruited by the English East India Company’s army personnel; others saw this as a result of the tumult in society produced by the civilian administrators’ various interventions with tradition and custom; and, finally, among Indian historians writing in the early twentieth century this year was interpreted as India waging its ‘first war of independence’, a prelude to the Gandhi-led ‘freedom struggle’ that would purportedly end British colonial rule in 1947. In these two lectures we will examine the historiographical debate around the momentous events that ‘almost ended’ British colonial rule in India. The objective of these lectures will be to discern the contentions that emerge when colonial, Indian nationalist and left-wing interpretations intertwine to understand a process.

Reading list
Primary sources: “The Azamgarh Proclamation” (available online)
Pramod K. Nayar (ed) The Trial of Bahadur Shah Zafar (Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2007), selected pages of this collection of original documents from the 21-day trial of the last Mughal emperor, deposed after the Rebellion of 1857.

Secondary sources:


Rudrangshu Mukherjee, *Awadh in Revolt, 1857-1858* (New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2001)


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**Weeks eleven and twelve**  
7 & 11 December *(latter date to be confirmed)*

**The Battle of Clontarf - interpretations and legacies**  
Professor Poul Holm

The Battle of Clontarf on Good Friday 1014 informs our interpretation of pre-Norman Ireland – and indeed continues to play a role in the heritage industry of today. In 2014 the Millenium of the battle of Clontarf will be celebrated in Ireland and abroad but what will be the cause of celebration? Historians have described the battle as a national victory when the threat of a Viking invasion rallied the Irish for the first time to some sense of national unity. Others see the battle as a revolt of the Leinstermen against the dominance of a would-be high-king with the Norsemen playing a minor role. So can we tell who really won at Clontarf? Why do historians disagree on such a fundamental issue?

**Reading list**

Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/27725330

TARA full text (author's copy):  
http://www.tara.tcd.ie/jspui/bitstream/2262/49404/1/PoulHolmBetweenApathyandAntipathy.pdf

**Further reading** (optional):

Darradarljod (The Fatal Sisters, translated by Thomas Gray (1716-1771)  
http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poem/883.html