HIST 417: British & Irish Nationalisms

MWF 11.35 – 12.25
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This course examines key aspects of Irish, Scottish and Welsh history within the British context from the Glorious Revolution of 1688 to the present. Its main focus is the question of nationalism and national identity, aiming to provide a detailed historical background to the current situation in each of the regions.

Course requirements: — class participation, including an in-class presentation: 10%
— midterm: 10%
— term paper, 10 pages, due in class on Monday, November 26: 40%
— final exam: 40%

Readings: These consist of four books (marked with an asterisk (*)) and a coursepack (**) . The books are available for purchase at The Word and the coursepack at the McGill Bookstore, and they are on 3-hour reserve at Redpath Library.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Background Reading

General
Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings

Sept. 5 Introduction and Overview
Sept. 7 The Glorious Revolution
Sept. 10 Scotland: The Union and Jacobitism
Sept. 12 Eighteenth-Century Wales and Scotland

Conference readings, Sept. 14:
Sept. 17  The Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland
Sept. 19  Ireland: Grattan’s Parliament to Union

Conference readings, Sept. 21:

Sept. 24  Ireland: Union to Famine
Sept. 26  Ireland: Famine to Land War

Conference readings, Sept. 28:

Oct. 1  Ireland: The Struggle for Home Rule
Oct. 3  The Road to the Irish Free State, 1914-23

Conference readings, Oct. 5:

Oct. 8  No classes: Thanksgiving
Oct. 10 Nationalism, Romanticism and Wales

Conference readings, Oct. 12:

* Richard Llewellyn, How Green was My Valley (Penguin).

Oct. 15  Nineteenth-century Wales: Industry, Religion, Politics, Nation
Oct. 17  MIDTERM

Conference readings, Oct. 19:


** Gwyn Williams, “When was Wales?” in The Welsh in their History (London and Canberra: Croom Helm, 1982), pp. 189-201.


** Chris Williams, “Problematising Wales: An Exploration in Historiography and Postcoloniality,” in Jane Aaron and Chris Williams (eds.), Postcolonial Wales (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2005), pp. 3-22.

Oct. 22  Welsh Liberalism, Socialism, Nationalism
Oct. 24  The Politics of Devolution in Wales since the 1960s

Conference readings, Oct. 26:


Oct. 29  Early Industrial Scotland
Oct. 31  Victorian Scotland

Conference readings, Nov. 2:


Nov. 5 Unionism and Nationalism in Scotland, 1914-1950s
Nov. 7 The Politics of Devolution in Scotland since the 1960s

Nov. 9 ** No conference.** Weekly readings:
* Boyce and O’Day, ch. 11 (Boyce, “Revisionism and the Northern Ireland Troubles”).

Nov. 12 Partitioned Ireland
Nov. 14 The Troubles (I)

Conference readings, Nov. 16:
* Tonge, *Northern Ireland*, chs. 6-11 and Conclusion.

Nov. 19 Documentary: *The Road to Bloody Sunday*
Nov. 21 The Troubles (II)

Conference readings, Nov. 23:

Nov. 26 Documentary: *Blood and Belonging*  
Nov. 28 The Troubles (III): The Road to Peace  
** Term paper due in class**

Conference readings, Nov. 30:

Dec. 3 Conclusion