

Social & Economic Aspects of Ireland

Lecturer Name(s): Francis Kelly (Social) & Stephen Chandler (Economic)

Moodle Code: S&E601

Course Code: S&E601

Allocation of Marks					
	Social Presentation	Economic Presentation	Midterm Exam Combined	Final Exam Combined	Total
Percentage Contribution	15%	15%	30%	40%	100%
ECTS Value	5 Credits				

***Details of all aspects of assessments will be provided by your lecturer in-class.**

Aims and Objectives

This module is designed to inform and enhance the socio-cultural understanding of Ireland by international learners, and to enable them to use standard economic tools to explore and evaluate fundamental aspects of the Irish economy.

Learning Outcomes

<i>On successful completion of this module learners will be able to:</i>
1. Discuss the <i>socio-cultural, political and economic</i> dimensions of contemporary Ireland, identifying similarities and contrasts with the learner's country of origin.
2. Identify the main civilisations, influences (music, language, religion etc), economic phases & policies and historical events which have shaped contemporary Ireland.
3. Recognize the complexities of the origins of the conflict in Northern Ireland and the progress made since the 1990's.
4. Summarise the use of standard tools used by economists to analyse aspects of a national economy, and state their applicability to aspects of the Irish economy.
5. Examine Ireland's participation in economic globalisation
6. Communicate the key contemporary issues and options in relation to Irish social and economic policy.

****Separate aspects of Learning Outcome(s) as indicated above will be assessed by the mid term and final written examinations.***

Module Content

Social Aspects

Session 1/2.	Facts about Ireland: General overview of Ireland including geography, population, flag, language, religion, sports, national identity, exports, celebrities, major current issues
Session 3.	Irish History: from Neolithic times to the Plantations
Session 4.	Irish History: from Rebellion to Modern Ireland
Session 5.	Irish Political System: Social Change and the Irish Constitution
Session 6/7.	Irish Political System: the Oireachtas, the President, Dáil, Seanad, political parties, the Irish electoral system, comparisons with other jurisdictions
Session 8.	Northern Ireland: the social, political, economic and religious origins of the conflict
Session 9.	Northern Ireland: the path to peace, the Belfast Agreement, current situation, Brexit
Session 10.	The Irish Language: origin and antiquity; social and political reasons for decline; efforts at revival; situation today, future predictions

Economic Aspects

Session 1 & 2.	The Basics of the Economy: Importance of economics; current issues in economics; problems in using GDP/GNP as a measure of economic well-being; alternative measures; circular flow of income; economic policy and goals; business cycle.
Session 3 & 4.	Introduction to the Irish Economy: Brief economic history of Ireland; GDP; unemployment; inflation; fiscal and monetary policy; trade, industrial policy, education.
Session 5.	Ireland and Globalisation: Definition of globalisation; Ireland's experience of globalisation and non-globalisation; benefits and costs for Ireland of economic globalisation.
Session 6.	The creation of the Celtic Tiger and the Modern Irish Economy: Pre-Celtic Tiger problems; membership of the EU; radical centrism; government economic policies; adherence to the Maastricht Criteria; tax and industrial policy; social partnership; education policy.
Session 7 & 8.	The Financial Crisis of 2008, Ireland & the recession: Facts about the Celtic Tiger (2007); reasons for the death of the Celtic Tiger: international financial crisis; bank lending; government spending; consumption; regulation of the financial sector; consequences for Ireland. Comparison of economic policy reaction with that of Covid-19
Session 9.	Ireland and the euro: Theory of an optimal currency area; current and prospective euro member states; EMU timetable; benefits and costs of the euro for Ireland.
Session 10.	The future of the Irish economy: Challenges and opportunities for the Irish economy. Country risk analysis; trade and industrial policy; climate change; public finances; social issues; households and the labour market; companies, investment and productivity; employment trends and future skills required.

Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

This module is delivered (F/T) onsite in face-to-face mode.

Classes meet twice per week for 3 hours based on 2 x 1.5-hour sessions which are divided equally between Social Aspects (1.5 hrs) and Economic Aspects (1.5hrs)

Classes are a mixture of traditional lecture style delivery, individual and group work and interactive/contributory activities.

The classroom experience is supported by a) ISB Moodle a VLE that contains digital resources for self-directed and group learning and b) the opportunity to attend ISB extracurricular activities.

The formative element will consist of a series of individual and group tasks aimed at “tangibilising” key elements of the teaching programme. These exercises will include quizzes, role-play, simulations, in-class projects and student responses to taught materials.

Formative Assessment in this also module includes direct and immediate feedback from both lecturers on in class presentations and activities in their respective subjects. While both subjects utilise a traditional lecture style there is an emphasis from both lecturers that students must be current and up to date by engaging with Irish media. Weekly discussions to this end provide further opportunities for formative feedback.

Reading Lists and Other Resources

Socio-Cultural and Political Aspects

O’Toole, F. We don’t know ourselves, a personal history of Ireland since 1958, Head of Zeus, 2021

Doyle, A. A History of the Irish Language, OUP, 2015

Atlas of Irish History, Gill Books, 3rd ed, Ed. Seán Duffy, 2012

Coakley, J and M Gallagher. Politics in the Republic of Ireland. PSAI Press, 2010

Cleary, J and C Connolly (eds). The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture. Cambridge University Press, 2005

Moody, TW. and FX Martin. The Course of Irish History. Mercier Press, 2001

Kenneally, C. A New History of Ireland. The History Press, 2008

McMurchaidh, C. Who Needs Irish? Veritas, 2004

Websites

www.irlgov.ie	www.cain.ulst.ac.uk	www.insightonconflict.org	www.irishlanguage.net
www.cso.ie	www.rte.ie	www.ireland.com	

Movies

In the Name of the Father, Universal Studios, 1993	The Wind that Shakes the Barley, 20th Fox Studios, 2006	Philomena, Pathé Studios, 2013
The Magdalene Sisters, Momentum Studios, 2002	The Commitments, 20th Fox Studios, 1991	Michael Collins, Warner Bros, 1996

Economic Aspects

Central Bank of Ireland Quarterly Bulletins

Leddin A., & Walsh B. (2013) Macroeconomics, An Irish and European Perspective, Gill & MacMillan, Dublin.

Lewis, M. (2012) "Boomerang", W. W. Norton & Company, New York.

McWilliams, D. (2005) The Pope's Children: Ireland's New Elite, Gill & MacMillan, Dublin, 2005;

McWilliams, D. (2007) "The Generation Game", Gill & MacMillan, Dublin, 2007.

McWilliams, D. (2018) Renaissance Nation, Gill Books;

O'Hagan, J., O'Toole, F. & Whelan, C. (eds) (2021) The Economy of Ireland: Policy Making in a Global Context, Red Globe Press.

Turley, G., O'Toole, F. & Maloney, M. (2006) Principles of economics: an Irish textbook, 3rd edition, Gill & MacMillan.

Websites

bbc.com	cpa.ie	oecd.org	davidmcwilliams.ie	irishindependent.ie
ft.com	esri.ie	centralbank.ie	idaireland.com	guardian.co.uk
cso.ie	rte.ie	ecb.europa.eu	economist.com	irishtimes.com