

Queens' 24 International Summer School Programme

Programme Topic: Irish Studies

Academic Lead:
Prof Peter Gray

Date: 24 June – 5 July 2024

Topic Summary: The Irish Studies programme takes a deeper dive into understanding identities in Ireland and their relationship with the wider world through explorations of the country's history, culture and language, with particular reference to the acute divisions over identity in the north. It looks at the origins and structural legacies of colonialism and religious change in shaping Ulster's conflicting 'ethno-religious' communities, but also at how the relationships between these have changed, sometimes in surprising ways, over time. The region's history is placed in the wider contexts of Irish economic development, famine, gender relations, mass emigration and the rise of an overseas diaspora, alongside the specific forms of nationalism and unionism. The causes and consequences of the partition of Ireland will be followed through to the experience of the Troubles of 1969-97 and their aftermaths, and how the 'difficult' past of Ireland is remembered and represented today. A visit to the Ulster-American Folk Park will focus on how migration has and continues to mould Irish society and identity. In week two we will focus on the cultural expressions of Irish identity, looking first at the decline and revival of the Irish language. We will discuss the contribution to Irish culture and identities of some of the country's leading writers from the 18th century to the present, and look particularly at how contemporary Northern Ireland has been represented on screen and stage, in poetry and in novels. The week includes a field trip to Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney's 'Homeplace' at Bellaghy and a plantation 'big house'.

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Develop a more rounded understanding of the culture and history of the north of Ireland, and its relations with the rest of the island and overseas
- identify and analyse primary and secondary sources and texts where appropriate
- undertake independent library-based research where appropriate



Monday 24th June			
Time	Session/Activity	Academic Lead	Location
9.30am - 11.00am	History: The Plantation of Ulster and its Legacies	Dr Ian Campbell	
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 1pm	History: The Failed Revolution of 1798 in its Atlantic Contexts	Dr Andrew Holmes	
1pm-2pm	Lunch		
2pm- 3.30pm	History: Belfast – the Rise and Fall of an Industrial Giant	Prof Peter Gray	



Tuesday 25th June			
9.30am - 11.00am	History: Famine and Land in the 19th Century	Prof Peter Gray	
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 12.30pm	History: Mass Emigration and Irish Diaspora	Prof Peter Gray	
12.30pm – 2pm	Lunch		
2pm – 3.30pm	History: Nationalism and Unionism in Ireland, c1840-1916	Prof Peter Gray	



Wednesday 26th June			
9.30am – 11.00am	History: Revolution, Partition, Independence: Ireland, 1916-23'	Prof Fearghal McGarry	
11.00am – 11.30am	Break		
11.30am – 12.30pm	History: Women's Experience and identities in Modern Ireland	Prof Elaine Farrell	
12.30pm – 2pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	History: Northern Ireland from Partition to the Origins of the Troubles	Prof Margaret O'Callaghan	



Thursday 27th June			
9.30am – 10.30am	History: From Troubles to Peace Process in Northern Ireland	Dr Ruth Duffy	
10.30am – 11.00am	Break		
11.00am – 12.30pm	History: Memory and Memorialisation in Contemporary Northern Ireland	Prof Peter Gray	
12.30pm – 2pm	Lunch		
2.00pm – 3.30pm	Visit to Ulster Museum: Representing the Troubles	Prof Peter Gray	
Friday 28th June			
9.30am-5pm	Field Trip: Ulster-American Folk Park and Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	Dr Paddy Fitzgerald	



Monday 1st July			
9.30-11.00am	Culture: Staging the Troubles and its Legacies	Dr Steffi Lehner	
11-11.30am	Break		
11.30am-1pm	Culture: The Languages of Ireland	Prof Micheal Ó Mainnin	
1pm-2pm	Lunch		
2pm-3.30pm	Field Trip: Culturlann and the Language Revival	Dr Síobhra Aiken	



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Tuesday 2nd July			
9.30am-11am	Culture: Irishness in print and performance, 1690-1820	Prof Moyra Haslett	
11-11.30am	Break		
11.30am-1pm	Culture: The Irish Gothic	Dr Sinead Sturgeon	
1pm-2pm	Lunch		
2pm-3.30pm	Culture: Class identities in Irish writing	Dr Michael Pierse	



Wednesday 3rd July			
9.30-11am	Culture: Yeats and the Irish Cultural Revival	Prof Fran Brearton	
11-11.30am	Break		
11.30-1pm	Culture: Heaney, the Troubles and the North	Dr Scott McKendry	
1-2pm	Lunch		
2-3.30pm	Culture: Contemporary Poetry in Belfast	Dr Scott McKendry	

Thursday 4th July			
9.30am-5pm	Field Trip: Seamus Heaney Homeplace and Springhill House	Prof Peter Gray	



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Friday 5th July			
9.30-11am	Culture: Writing Contemporary Belfast: Milkman	Dr Alison Garden	
11-11.30am	Break		
11.30am-1pm	Culture: Screening the Troubles	Dr Des O'Rawe	