

## Northern Irish Politics

UNLV  
Course Number: PSC-407Z  
Semester: Spring 2007  
Class time and location: BEH 216  
Tues and Thurs 11:30am- 12:45pm

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and Wednesdays 10:15am- 11:15am

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Northern Irish Politics has been characterized by images of religious/political conflict for over 30 years; yet for the last few years the guns of its paramilitary organizations have remained relatively silent. For this reason it is a hot topic of study. In a world where conflict seems to be on the rise, how conflict arose in Northern Ireland, under what circumstances it subsided, and what are the prospects for continued peace in the future, are questions of great interest to political science and international relations students who wish to understand the nature of conflict and conflict resolution.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

The aim of this course is to provide an in depth look at the History and Politics of Northern Ireland, with a specific aim of understanding the conflict which developed there and the subsequent peace settlement which followed. It will do this by explaining and analysing: how Northern Ireland came about, the politics it initially adopted, the background and history of its troubles, the evolution of the peace process, and its contemporary political environment.

### **EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students should demonstrate:

- a basic understanding of the historical foundations of Northern Ireland, including partition, the Orange State, and the Civil Rights Movement
- a basic understanding of the politics of contemporary unionism, loyalism, nationalism and republicanism
- knowledge of the Irish peace process, including the Power Sharing Initiative, Anglo-Irish Agreement and Good Friday Agreement
- knowledge of contemporary Northern Irish political trends
- a basic understanding of the theoretical perspectives which tie Northern Irish politics to exogenous political trends

### **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:**

The required texts for this course are:

Tonge, Jonathan, *Northern Ireland: Conflict and Change*, Longman: London, 2002, Second Edition. (ISBN: 0582424003)

McGarry, John, *Northern Ireland and the Divided World*, Oxford University Press, 2001. (ISBN: 0199244340)

Other supplementary reading materials will be available via library services.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**

This class will be conducted via a series of lectures and class discussions. A schedule of lectures and some discussion topics, as well as reading assignments, is provided below. However, be aware that additional readings and discussion questions may be added to the schedule, and that the schedule itself may change due to time constraints. Any changes will be announced at least a week in advance.

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

You will be required to complete the following:

- 2 tests
- Research Paper (10 pages typed)

- one oral presentation
- and one final exam

The due dates for the above mentioned are indicated in the schedule provided below. All tests will include a combination of multiple choice, identifications, true and false, and essay questions.

More details on the procedures and requirements of the article report, article research report, and oral presentation will be provided early in the semester.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION:**

Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance: 5%

Participation: 5%

First Test: 15%

2<sup>nd</sup> Test: 15%

Oral Report: 15%

Research Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Detailed instructions for the Research paper and Oral Report will be handed out early in the semester.

### **Grading**

All final numerical grades will be transcribed into letter grades in the following manner:

100-93= A

75-73= C

92-89= A-

72-69= C-

88-86= B+

68-66= D+

85-83= B

65-63= D

82-79= B-

62-59= D-

78-76= C+

58-0= F

### **CLASS POLICIES:**

**1. Attendance:** Attendance is taken and counts toward part of your final grade.

**2. Lateness:** Anyone coming to class more than 15 minutes late will be counted as absent.

**3. Class participation:** Class participation also counts toward your final grade. Discussion periods are specifically designed to evaluate your performance. Keeping up with your reading and preparing in advance for discussion will help you achieve a high grade in this area.

**4. Exam and Missed Test Policy:** Students are expected to take the final exam and all tests at the time scheduled by the instructor. If a student has an extraordinary, legitimate, and proven reason for missing a test ( such as a religious holiday or UNLV sporting event) and the instructor is notified at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled testing date, arrangements for a make-up exam can be made during the semester. Otherwise, all students can make up any missed tests on the last day of class. Note that the format of the make-up test will **not necessarily** be the same as that of the regularly scheduled test.

The final exam must be taken on the scheduled day during finals week. No make ups or early final exams will be given.

**5. Late Papers.** For the purposes of fairness, students who do not turn in their written assignments on time will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day (including weekends and holidays).

**7. Academic Dishonesty (Plagiarism, Cheating).** Such instances may (and will most likely) result in a **FAILURE** for the *entire course*. (See the “*Student Academic Misconduct Policy*”)

### **LECTURE, DISCUSSION, AND READING SCHEDULE:**

#### **Leading up to the Modern Troubles**

##### **Week 1**

##### **January 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Course Overview

*Discussion Question:* Why Study Northern Ireland Politics?

Assigned Reading: Tonge- Introduction and Campbell, Colm and Ita Connolly, “A Model for the War Against Terrorism,” *Journal of Law & Society*, Sep2003, Vol. 30 Issue 3, p341.

##### **Week 2**

## **January 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Home Rule and Partition

*Discussion Question:* Why was Ireland partitioned and who gained from this circumstance?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge-Chapter One and Gwynn, Stephen, "Ireland One and Divisible," *Foreign Affairs*, 12/15/24, Vol. 3 Issue 2, p183-198.

### Week 3

## **January 30<sup>th</sup> - 1st**

*Lecture:* The Orange State

*Discussion Question:* To what extent was Northern Ireland once a 'Protestant State for a Protestant People'?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 2 and Bew, Paul and Henry Patterson, "Protestant-Catholic Conflict in Ulster," *Journal of International Affairs*, Fall82/Winter83, Vol. 36 Issue 2, p223, 12p

### Week 4

## **February 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Civil Rights and the Beginning of the Troubles

*Discussion Question:* What was the aim of NICRA and why did it fail?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 3

## **Political and Religious Identity**

### Week 5

## **February 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Irish Nationalism and Republicanism

*Discussion Question:* What was the difference between the politics of Sinn Fein and the SDLP?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 5, Smyth, Jim, "The Road to God Knows Where: Understanding Irish Republicanism," *Capital & Class*, Summer2005 Issue 86, p135-158, 24p and Hume, John, "The Irish Question: A British Problem," *Foreign Affairs*, Winter79/80, Vol. 58 Issue 2, p300-313, 14p.

\*\*\* **Test on Monday**\*\*\*

### Week 6

## **February 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Lecture:* Unionism and Loyalism

*Discussion Question:* Who, or what, are Unionists and Loyalists Loyal to?

*Film:* Provos No. 1

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 4, Frasier- and McAuley, James White, "Mobilising Ulster Unionism: New Directions or old?" *Capital & Class*, Spring2000 Issue 70, p37-64, 28p.

## **Oral Reports**

### Week 7

## **February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Lecture:* Religion, Conflict, and Identity

*Discussion Question:* Was the Northern Ireland Conflict Religious, Cultural, or Political?

*Assigned Readings:* Tonge- Chapter 8 and Barnes, L. Philip, "Was the Northern Ireland Conflict Religious," *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, Jan2005, Vol. 20 Issue 1, p55-69.

## **Oral Reports**

## **Direct Rule and Searching for a Political Settlement**

### Week 8

## **March 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Pre Peace Process Political Initiatives (1972-1984)

*Discussion Question:* To what extent were the pre-peace process political initiatives similar to the current one?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 9, and Dixon, Paul, "British Policy Toward Northern Ireland 1969-2000: Continuity, Tactical Readjustment, and Consistent Inconsistencies," *British Journal of Politics & International Relations*, Oct2001, Vol. 3 Issue 3, p340.

## **Oral Reports**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> is Spring Break—Have a good holiday!!!!**

## Week 9

**March 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Lecture:* The Anglo-Irish Agreement

*Discussion Question:* How important was the Anglo-Irish Agreement to the initiation of the Peace Process?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 10, and “Nationalism, Internationalism, and the Anglo-Irish Agreement.” *Journal of Social, Political & Economic Studies*, Fall/Winter92, Vol. 17 Issue 3/4, p373, 44p.

### **Oral Reports**

## **The Peace Process**

### Week 10

**March 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* The Formation of the Peace Process

*Discussion Question:* Who contributed the most to the peace process, the British and Irish Governments, the Nationalists, or the Unionists?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 11, and O’Kane, Eamonn, “Anglo---Irish Relations and the Northern Ireland Peace Process,” *Contemporary British History*, Spring2004, Vol. 18 Issue 1, p78-99, 22p.

### **Test on Monday**

### Week 11

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* The Good Friday Agreement

*Discussion Question:* ‘The War is Over and the Unionists Lost’-- Do you agree with this statement?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 12, McGarry- Chapter 3 and 4, and handout

### Week 12

**April 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Continued prospects for peace

*Discussion Question:* In what way might peace in Northern Ireland be considered unstable?

*Assigned Reading:* Tonge- Chapter 13, McGarry and Neumann, Peter R., “From Revolution to Devolution,” *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, Apr2005, Vol. 13 Issue 1, p79-92.

**\*\*\* Research Report Due on Thursday\*\*\***

## **Learning From the Case of Northern Ireland**

### Week 13

**April 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Lessons for and from other conflicts

*Discussion Question:* In what ways may the case of Northern Ireland be useful for solving the Basque conflict?

*Assigned Reading:* McGarry- Chapter 8, 11, and 12 and “Bombers Return,” *Economist*, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2007, p 44-45.

### Week 14

**April 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>**

*Lecture:* Northern Ireland Conflict in the Global Perspective

*Discussion Topic:* How much did the politics of the EU, Cold War, or other outside forces affect the political conflict in Northern Ireland?

*Assigned Reading:* McGarry- Chapter 4 Cox, Michael, “Thinking Globally about Peace in Northern Ireland,” *Politics*, Feb98, Vol. 18 Issue 1, p57-64, and handout.

### Week 15

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Lecture:* Catch up lecture and Exam talk

### Week 16

Final Exam

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFO AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

*Copyright Law:* The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as

well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website:<<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>>

*Disability Resource Center (DRC):* The Executive Vice President and Provost and Faculty Senate have endorsed the following statement to be included in all course syllabi.

NOTE: Over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that the syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

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