**St. Francis Xavier University**

**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 373: Irish Society Syllabus: Winter Semester 2015-16**

Dr. John Phyne

Annex 110A

*Class Times*: Tuesday, 2:15 to 3:30; Thursday, 2:15 to 3:30.

Office Hours: Monday, 2:00 to 4:00; Thursday, 10:30 to 12:00; Friday, 10:30 to 12:00 or by appointment

*E-mail*: [jphyne@stfx.ca](mailto:jphyne@stfx.ca)

**E-mail Policy**: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use the e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. No laptops are permitted for the recording of lectures. Refer to the information and communications technology policy guideline on p. 3 of this syllabus.

**Course Outline**

This is a course in the historical and political sociology of Ireland. It is mostly a critical analysis of Ireland in the 20th and 21st centuries. Following in the tradition of C. Wright Mills, this course will examine the intersection among biography, history and social structure in Ireland. The first week will be an overview of Ireland prior to the 20th century. The objective here is to set the context for the processes that governed much of the 20th century. There will be a brief coverage of the ‘peopling of Ireland’. This is to go beyond the stereotype of Ireland as primordial ‘Celtic Kingdom’. This is followed by an analysis of the Great Potato Famine (1845 to 1849) and the impact of this on the Irish diaspora and Irish nationalism. Next, we cover the Land War (1879 to 1882) and the Home Rule Campaigns (1880s and 1890s). These events informed the conflicts that impacted Ireland in the 20th century.

The bulk of the course deals with Ireland (North and South) in the 20th century. Ferriter’s (2005) text will be the main reading. Ferriter is a social historian whose themes resonate with sociological analysis. In 20th century Ireland, the themes of: 1) partition and nationalism, 2) class and gender inequalities, 3) the rural and urban divide, 4) the perennial issue of out-migration, 5) the gradual decline of the Catholic Church, 6) the importance of the European Union, 7) the shift from an impoverished to a ‘booming’ nation in the Republic of Ireland, and 8) conflict and eventual accommodation in Northern Ireland, are discussed in Ferriter. We begin with his discussion of some of these issues in Ireland at the turn of the 20th century and see the development of these themes (1 to 5), and eventual emergence of other issues (6 to 8), over the course of the latter half of the 20th century.

There are over 700 pages in the textbook. If you read 70 pages a week, you will easily cover it. If you don’t like to read, this is not a course for you. While some of the issues covered by Ferriter will be raised in class, you will need to read the text in order to do well in this course. There are no shortcuts. The Moodle section will have materials that accompany course lectures, examination outlines and the guidelines for your term paper.

**Textbook**

Diarmaid Ferriter, **The Transformation of Ireland**. Woodstock: The Overlook Press, 2004.

**Evaluation**: There will be three examinations and one term paper.

**Examination One**: Tuesday, February 2 – 25 marks.

**Examination Two**: Tuesday, March 8 – 25 marks.

**Term Paper**: Due in class (not under my door after class), Tuesday, March 15 – 15 marks. The guidelines are in Moodle.

**Final**: 35 marks.

**Required Readings**

**Section One: Ireland Before the 20th Century (3 weeks)**

*Who are the Irish*?(one week)

No required readings.

*The Great Potato Famine and the Irish Diaspora, 1845 to 1852 (one week)*

Cormac O Grada, “Making Irish Famine History in 1995”, **History Workshop Journal**, 42, 1996, pp. 87-104. (Available in Moodle).

*Diaspora and Nationalism: Ireland in the late 19th Century (one week)*

Anne Kane, “Narratives of Nationalism: Constructing Irish National Identity During the Land War, 1879 -1882”, **National Identities**, 2(3), 2010, pp. 245-264. (Available in Moodle).

**Section Two: The New Century: 1900 to 1912 (one week)**

Ferriter, Introduction, pp. 1 to 27; Chapter 1, pp. 28 to 109.

**Section Three: Nationalism, Partition and Civil War: 1912 to 1923 (one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 2, pp. 110 to 185; Chapter 3, pp. 186 to 279.

**Section Four: Free State in the South, Orange State in the North: 1923 to 1932**

**(one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 4, pp. 280 to 357.

**Section Five: De Valera’s Ireland?: 1932 to 1945 (one week)**

Ferriter, Chapter 5, pp. 358 to 449.

**Section Six: ‘Modernizing’ Ireland: 1945 to 1970 (two weeks)**

Ferriter, Chapter 6, pp. 450 to 535; Chapter 7, pp. 536 to 622.

**Section Seven: The European Union, Conflict in the North and Celtic Tiger in the South: 1970 to 2000 (three weeks)**

Ferriter, Chapter 8, pp. 623 to 759.

**Technology and this Course**

I require that you abide by the following rules for the use of Information and Communications Technologies ICT in conjunction with this course.

1. **E-mail**: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Unnecessary e-mails will remain unanswered.
2. **Cell Phones and Smart Watches**: Please turn off all cell phones before the commencement of class. If you need to have your cell phone turned on, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, if you need to text message someone, I suggest that you leave the class.
3. **No use of laptops for taking notes**: Students are increasingly making use of laptops for taking notes. I have tried to get students to do this responsibly. Unfortunately, the surfing of the Internet while in class has interfered with the teaching environment. Therefore, as of 2010, I decided to ban the use of laptops in my classes.
4. **No audio or video taping of lectures**: Under no circumstances are my lectures to be audio or video taped. If you require assistance in the taking of notes, I suggest that you seek the assistance of the Counseling Centre (867-2281).