

SU405 IRISH SOCIETY (3 Credits)

COURSE OBJECTIVE: This course introduces students to Irish Society and, through the use of a sociological and anthropological frame of reference, helps them understand how that society functions. Irish Society has experienced considerable industrialisation and urbanisation in recent times with consequent social change. At the same time, many of its social institutions have retained some traditional features. This mix of the old and the new form a central theme in this course. Particular attention will also be paid to special features of social life in the West of Ireland, an area that received much attention from Irish and non-Irish anthropologists and sociologists.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Induction

The Changing Irish Society: the impact of independence

The Changing Irish Society: Political arrangements in the new Irish States

The Changing Irish Society: Ireland since the sixties

SEMINAR: The Economics and Politics of Independence

The Extent and Significance of Gender Divisions in Irish Society

The Irish Family

Education and Schooling in Ireland

SEMINAR: Men, Women and Children in Modern Ireland

The Catholic Church in Irish Society

Education and Social Mobility

The Media and Social Change

SEMINAR: Religion and Irish Society

Social Problems in Irish Society

Urban and Rural Social Problems

Crime and Social Control in Irish Society

SEMINAR: Progress, Poverty and Inequality

COURSE TEXTS:

ESSENTIAL READING TO BE PURCHASED BY STUDENTS:

Tovey, H., Share, P and Corcoran M. A Sociology of Ireland Gill and Macmillan, 2007.

OTHER RELEVANT READING:

T. Fahey el. Best of Times-The Social Impact of the Celtic Tiger.IPA. 2007

Coakley, J. & Gallagher M.: Politics in the Republic of Ireland, 4th edition, 2005 PSAI Press

F.S.L. Lyons: Ireland Since the Famine Fontana, London, 1971.

Tobin, C.: The Decade of Change: Ireland in the 1960s Gill and Macmillan, 1984.

C. Curtin et al. (eds.) Culture and Ideology in Ireland Galway University Press, 1984.

C. Curtin et al. (eds.) Gender in Irish Society Galway University Press, 1987.

C. Curtin and T. Wilson (eds.) Ireland From Below Galway University Press, 1989.

C. Curtin et al. (eds.) Irish Urban Cultures Institute of Irish Studies Press, 1994.

M. Kelly et al. (eds.) Power and Conflict in Irish Society Dublin, Turoe Press, 1982.

M. Peillon: Contemporary Irish Society Dublin, Gill and Macmillan, 1982.

J. Curry: The Irish Social Services Dublin, Institute of Public Administration, 1980.

C. Arensberg and S. Kimball: Family and Community in Ireland 2nd edition, Harvard University Press, 1968.

B. Chubb: The Government and Politics of Ireland Longman.

H. Brody: Inishkillane: Change and Decline in the West of Ireland London, Penguin, 1973.

All books available in the University's library. A compilation of relevant articles will also be made available at course commencement.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITS:

1. Attendance and participation at all regularly scheduled lectures and seminars.
2. One essay of 1,500 words on a subject assigned by the Course Professor in Irish Society.
3. Written examination of material covered in Irish Society lectures and seminars.

COURSE PROFESSOR:

Christopher Curtin, Ph.D

Born in Co. Clare, Christopher Curtin graduated from NUI, Galway in Sociology and History. He holds and M.A. in Sociology from the National University of Ireland and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Hull University, England. This degree was awarded for a dissertation entitled "Family and Land in the West of Ireland".

He has taught a wide range of courses in Sociology and Political Science at Irish, American and British universities. On his own, or in collaboration with scholars from Ireland, Britain, France, Holland, Germany and the U.S.A., he has carried out research on various sociological and political science topics. His current research interests are in the areas of community development, economic anthropology and agrarian politics. He is author of a number of reports on social and economic development in the West of Ireland, co-author of The Commoditization Debate, Padoc (1986), co-editor of Culture and Ideology in Ireland, Galway University Press (1984), Gender in Irish Society, Galway University Press (1987), Introduction to Irish Studies, Gill and Macmillan (1988), Ireland From Below, Galway University Press (1989), Irish Urban Cultures, Institute of Irish Studies Press (1994) and Rural Poverty in Ireland, Oak Trees Press (1996). He has published articles in The Sociological Review, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Ethnology, Economic and Social Review, American Anthropologist, Journal of Community Development and The European Journal of Rural Sociology.