“The Dublin Volunteers on the College Green, 4\textsuperscript{th} November 1779.”

The IRA on Grafton Street, 1922, just a few blocks away from the scene of the painting above.
Required Texts:

Joseph Coohill, *Ireland: A Short History*
Frank O’Connor, *Collected Stories*
James Joyce, *Dubliners*
Seamus Deane, *Reading in the Dark*

Summary: Revolutionary Ireland traces Irish history through an investigation of the history of the conquest of Ireland by Britain, Ireland’s colonial suffering, and the consequent history of Irish nationalism. The course particularly emphasizes Irish nationalism and rebellion in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. A key assumption of the course is that history is best understood in place. Thus readings, discussion and lectures are continually reinforced by nearly daily field trips to important Irish historical sites that illuminate the course’s topics and themes.

Schedule:

Fri 7/10  **2:00 Check-In (Take a nap)**

*Evening: Orientation*

*Evening Film: “The Commitments”*

Sat 7/11  **Sleep In – Look Around Maynooth**

*Afternoon: Lecture 1: Early Ireland / Walk to Maynooth Castle (2:00)*

Maynooth Castle, Seat of the Fitzgerards, Earls of Kildare, was the site of an early Irish revolt against Henry VIII. Another famous Fitzgerald revolutionary would appear centuries later.
Bus Trip: **Bru Na Boinne / Mellifont Abbey / Trim Castle** (8:00 AM)

We begin with the briefest glance at the many layers of Irish history leading up to the Norman conquest. The ancient passage tomb at Newgrange is older than the pyramids.

Mon 7/13  Lecture 2: 16\(^{th}\) and 17\(^{th}\) Century Ireland

Lecture 3: The Age of the Penal Laws / Social Conditions in 18\(^{th}\) Century Ireland


**Afternoon: Medieval Dublin:** **St. Audoen’s Church / St. Patrick’s Cathedral**
**Bonus:** **Marsh’s Library**

St. Audoen’s was a medieval parish in downtown Dublin. It is still in use.
Tue 7/14 Lecture 4: The Protestant Ascendancy / Georgian Dublin

Lecture 5: The Rebellion of 1798

**Afternoon:** Castletown House (2:00 PM)


The “Ascendancy” was the rule of Ireland by a Protestant elite after 1689. Castletown House is the most important of the Irish “Great Houses” that displayed the wealth and power of that elite.

Wed 7/15 Ascendancy Dublin:

**Morning:** Dublin Castle (11:00) / Stag’s Head Pub (1:00)

**Afternoon:** Irish Georgian Society / Bank of Ireland / Trinity College Dublin

Dublin Castle was the seat of English rule in Ireland for centuries.
Fri 7/17      Lecture 7: The Famine and the Irish Diaspora

Reading Due: Coohill, *Ireland: A Short History*, pp. 39-78.

Afternoon: **Glasnevin Cemetery** (2:30)

Glasnevin Cemetery, a fascinating place, is the burial site of an incredible number of important Irish historical figures. The Daniel O’Connell monument dominates the cemetery.
Sat 7/18  **Matinee:** at the **Abbey Theater** (9:00 AM)  
**Afternoon:** Revolutionary Dublin Walk / **Hugh Lane Gallery**

The Abbey is the Irish national theater. The original Abbey was an important site during the 1916 rebellion. We will see a play at the Abbey as well as experience a backstage tour.

Sun 7/19  **Free Day**  
**Recommended:** Sunday Service at St. Mary’s Church of Ireland, the church of the Earls of Kildare, 11:30 AM

Mon 7/20  Lecture 8: 19th Century Irish Nationalism

**Reading Due:** Jackson, *Ireland 1798-1998*, pp 79-96

**Afternoon:** **Kilmainham Gaol** (2:30 PM)

Kilmainham Gaol (Jail) is probably the most important site in the history of Irish nationalism and revolution. Imagine if America’s founders had all been arrested and imprisoned in the same jail.
Tue 7/21  Lecture 9: The Land War and the Fight for Home Rule

Lecture 10: Rebellion

Reading Due: Coohill, *Ireland: A Short History*, pp. 97-111; Frank O’Connor, “Guests of the Nation”

Afternoon: **National Gallery of Ireland**

The National Gallery is a gorgeous repository of important Irish national treasures.

Wed 7/22  Lecture 11: The Irish Civil War

Reading Due: Coohill, *Ireland: A Short History*, pp. 112-141; O’Connor, “The Martyr”; Liam O’Flaherty, “The Sniper”

Lecture 12: The Republic Becomes Independent

Afternoon: **14 Henrietta Street** (3:00)
Evening Film: “The Wind That Shakes the Barley”

14 Henrietta Street is Dublin’s tenement museum and the best place to learn about the life of Dublin’s poor over a 200-year span. It’s a tremendous immersive experience.
Thu 7/23  Lecture 13: Origins of the Troubles

**Afternoon:** [National Museum, Collins Barracks](#)

**Reading Due:** Coohill, *Ireland: A Short History*, pp. 142-167

The National Museum at Collins Barracks functions as Ireland’s attic. Its incredible collections cover all stages of our course. It has a tremendously strong 1916 collection.

Fri 7/24  **Leinster House** (Irish Parliament) (2:30 PM)


Leinster House is Ireland’s parliament building. It is both an historic site and the place where Irish nationalism continues to be debated and shaped today. Irish politics continue to be volatile.
Assignments & Grading:

Discussion, 50%, Final Paper, 50%.

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Work Expectations:

- Lectures – On site in Ireland
- Readings (both textbook and online) – Students are expected to read Behan’s *Borstal Boy* before the trip to Ireland. They should bring all the books for the course with them. There will be regular reading assignments assigned while in Ireland, including selected short stories.
- Discussion – Most days you will have readings to analyze and discuss.
- Written Work – You will be asked to write a final essay due by August 9.

Final Paper: You will do an independent paper or project on a topic of your choosing due via email by midnight Friday August 7. Think about your favorite aspect of Irish history during the trip and we’ll discuss your ideas just before we leave Ireland.