POS3305
Irish Politics

C4036
TR 14:00-15:15
Winter 2010
Department of Political Science
Memorial University of Newfoundland


1 Contact Details
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2 Calendar Description
Introduces students to the politics of the Republic of Ireland. Topics covered include the historical origins of the state, the political influence of the Roman Catholic Church, the evolution of political institutions, as well as the evolving relationship with Northern Ireland, Europe and the world.

3 Summary Description
If Sarah Palin lived in St. John’s, she might suggest that if you were to stand on top of Signal Hill you may see the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day. Seriously though, we’ll get a little closer to Ireland by examining what makes Irish politics so interesting. Whether you are attracted to one of the most unique electoral systems in the world, the rise and fall of the Celtic tiger, or the rapid transformation of Ireland’s relationship with Northern Ireland and the rest of Europe… Céad mile fáilte.

4 Required Readings
There is one textbook available for purchase at the bookstore:


The text is available for purchase in the MUN bookstore. A copy has also been placed on reserve at the QEII Library. Additionally, an electronic version of the text is available on the library website.

5 Grade Breakdown
Students may avail of one of two grading schemes for this class:
Table 1: POSC3305 Grading Schemes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Midterm</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
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5.1 Participation

The participation component for this class involves weekly discussion and presentation sessions in which groups of students will discuss and review a supplementary reading. The class will then culminate with a short presentation (10 minutes max) by each group to the class which presents the highlights of each group’s discussion. In-class presentations will then be followed by the submission of a short powerpoint slide show to the D2L site for public consumption. The powerpoint slide show must be submitted prior to the beginning of the next lecture. Each student’s two lowest participation grades will not be considered in the final evaluation of the overall participation grade.

The purpose of the participation component is to accomplish the following:

1. Compel students to read beyond the basic readings
2. Compile useful reading notes which can be used in the final writing assignment
3. Work on presentation skills which can be used in future classes

Participation grades are marked on a collective basis for each presentation group. It is up to the members of each group to resolve any potential collective action problems which may arise from attempts to coordinate. Each presentation will be marked in the following manner:

1. Submitted Powerpoint Slide Show: 33.33 percent. Note that late submission of the powerpoint slideshow will result in a 25 percent deduction for each day that the assignment is submitted late. The late deduction will apply to all members of the group, not just the individual responsible for uploading the slideshow to the D2L site.

2. Statement of Participation: 33.33 percent. Each member of the group must write a short paragraph outlining their individual contribution to the overall presentation. Students must submit their statement to their group discussion board. Note that students who do not submit a statement of individual participation will receive a grade of zero for that week’s participation assignment. Additionally, students who submit a statement of personal participation which outlines that they did little or nothing to contribute to the collective effort may receive a grade of zero for that week’s participation assignment.

3. In-class presentation: 33.33 percent. The presentation will be evaluated on the quality of the presentation itself as well as the quality of the content. Groups may team present if they like by designating a spokesperson to present on behalf of the group. Note that presentation grade is a collective grade, i.e. each member of the group will receive the same grade. Also note that students who do not attend their group’s public presentation will receive a grade of zero for the in-class presentation component of that week’s assignment.

Tips on how to earn a successful participation grade:

- Do the reading before class so you can contribute and participate fully in the group discussion.
- Don’t submit the powerpoint presentation late.
- If possible, coordinate with your fellow group members in advance.
5.2 Optional Midterm
An optional midterm will take place on February 25, 2010. The optional midterm will consist of a series of short essay questions, probably four or five. Students who decide to write the midterm will see their essay and final exam components less intensely towards their final grade. This option may benefit students who worry about course components worth 33.33 percent of their final grade. Students who choose not to attend the optional midterm are automatically assigned Grading Scheme #1. Please note that there are no makeup opportunities to write the optional midterm.

5.3 Essay
Students are required to submit an essay of no more than 3000 words (not including cover page and bibliography) before midnight on March 18, 2010. The essay must be submitted as a Microsoft Word (doc or docx) or Adobe PDF (pdf) file to the D2L Essay Drop Box. Essays which are not submitted in either of these formats will be marked as a late until they are resubmitted in one of the acceptable formats. Please do not send OpenOffice, Wordperfect or RTF files. Late submissions will be docked 10 percent a day (including weekends). Essays must follow standard formatting guidelines: cover page, page numbering, bibliography, 12pt font (Times New Roman), double spaced, section headers as needed. Essays must employ an in-text citation style. I recommend the Harvard citation style (http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/harvard.html). Alternatively, you may use the Mapping Politics style guide as a reference (http://journals.library.mun.ca/mp_styleguide.pdf).

5.4 Final Exam
A cumulative final exam will take place during the scheduled final exam period. The final exam will consist of a series of short essay questions.

6 House Rules
6.1 Class Schedule
We will meet at 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room SN2098. I respectfully ask that you arrive on time. In the event that you arrive late, please quietly find an empty seat close to the entrance so as to not disturb the class. In the event that you miss a lecture then you are welcome to come by my office during office hours and I will briefly go over the materials covered in class. This opportunity should not be construed as a suitable replacement for attending lectures.

6.2 Mobile phones and wireless technology
Please ensure that all of your wireless technology is turned off while attending the lecture. The lectures are short and will require your full attention. Furthermore, it is disrespectful to your fellow students and the professor not to fully engage, even silently, in the lecture. If you use a laptop or PDA, please refrain from writing emails, internet chatting, websurfing etc. during class as it is distracting for both the professor and your fellow students. Lastly, electronic recording of any aspect of this course is not permitted without permission of the professor.

6.3 Etiquette
Relevant questions, debates and discussion are encouraged and welcomed. However, demeaning comments or behaviour towards fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour may result in a mark reduction in the participation component of the final grade.

6.4 Lecture Materials
Powerpoint slides will be made available via the Desire2Learn portal at the end of each lecture topic.
6.5 Eating and drinking

University lectures often require coffee or some other legal stimulant. By all means feel free to bring along a beverage, preferably in a reusable container; just be sure to take away any litter that you bring with you. Please leave your lunch and/or snack at home or in your locker.

6.6 Accommodation for students with disabilities

Students affiliated with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre for Students with Disabilities may wish to identify themselves to me at their convenience so I can ensure that they are properly accommodated.

7 Schedule

Week 01 (January 7, 2010): Welcome and Introduction

No Readings

Week 02 (January 12, 14, 2010): Nationalism in Ireland

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 1 (R)
- January 14, 2010: Discuss research interests with respect to Irish Politics (Library session replacement)

Week 03 (January 19, 21, 2010): Ireland's Distinctive Political Culture

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 2 (R)
- January 21, 2010: Library Session on how to use electronic article indexes to quickly find relevant material. Session will take place in class.

Week 04 (January 26, 28, 2010): Constitutional Development in Ireland

Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 3 (R)

Highly Recommended Readings: Chubb Ch. 3; Keogh (1988); Farrell (1988).

Week 05 (February 02, 04, 2010): Ireland’s Changing Party System

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 5 (R)

Week 06 (February 09, 11, 2010): PR-STV Electoral System

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 4 (R)

Week 07 (February 16, 18, 2010): Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann - role and operation in a comparative perspective

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 7 (R)
- Highly Recommended Readings: Adshead and Millar Ch. 6; CRG Ch. 4

This class may be dedicated to a PR-STV simulation. TBA.
Week 08 (February 23, 25, 2010): Spring Break and optional midterm exam

- The optional midterm exam will take place on February 25, 2010.

Week 09 (March 02, 04, 2010): The operation of cabinet government in Ireland

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 10 (R)

Week 10 (March 09, 11, 2010): Interest Groups and Political Power in Ireland

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 11 (R)

Week 11 (March 16, 18, 2010): Explanations of the Northern Ireland Conflict

- Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 13 (R)
• Group 2 Reading: “Why the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland Is Not Consociational.” The Political Quarterly 76(3): 357-367.

• Readings: Coakley and Gallagher, Chapter 14 (R)
• Highly Recommended Readings: Laffan (2002) Ch. 5; Adshead and Millar (2004) Ch. 11

Week 13 (March 30, April 01, 2010): The Celtic Tiger/Kitten
TBA

Week 14 (April 6, 2010): Wrap up and Exam Review

8 References


*The current economic situation in the Republic of Ireland is volatile and evolving. If possible I will try to arrange a guest speaker to talk on the contemporary origins and consequences of the rise and collapse of the Celtic Tiger*


38. Tovey, Hilary and Perry Share. 2003. A Sociology of Ireland 2nd ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan


