Module description

This module will introduce the student to the causes and consequences of the Great Irish Famine from 1845 to 1853. In particular, students will examine the impact of the famine at a local level. The Great Famine was the greatest social catastrophe in Irish history. In that short period over one million people died and another one million people emigrated from Ireland. This module will examine the economic, social and political background, as well as the public and private reactions to the disaster. In addition, the module will discuss the continued legacy of the Famine with a particular focus on the Irish diaspora.

Module aims and objectives

The aims of this module are to introduce students to the history of the Great Irish Famine and to enable them to identify and understand the predominant arguments and key historiographical debates concerning this pivotal moment in Irish history. Throughout the module, students will develop an awareness of the complexity of the social, economic and political conditions in Ireland during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. A primary objective of this module is to develop the student’s critical awareness of the characteristics of the Great Famine in a variety of contexts and to enhance their appreciation of methodologies employed by historians of the Great Famine. Throughout, the module will place a strong emphasis on primary source material with the ultimate aim of developing students’ analytical and interpretative skills.
**Learning outcomes**
On completion of this module, students will be able to:

i. Identify and understand the key causes and consequences of the Great Irish Famine

ii. Contextualise the changes in Irish society as a result of the famine

iii. Understand and analyse the broad range of primary and secondary source material which underpins the study of the Great Famine

iv. Interpret and understand a broad range of historiographical arguments relating to the famine.

**Assessment**
Assessment for this module will take the form of continuous assessment in four phases.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>Critique of primary source document (750 words) 15%</td>
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<td>ii.</td>
<td>In-class group presentation based on specified themes (20 mins) 20%</td>
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<td>iii.</td>
<td>Field Trip Report (750 words) 15%</td>
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<td>iv.</td>
<td>Essay (2000 words) 50%</td>
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Information relating to individual assignments will be provided in class and relevant material will be uploaded to Moodle. All assignments must be accompanied by a departmental cover sheet and citations must conform to the IHS referencing style.

**Moodle**
Students are expected to engage with the module content on Moodle regularly. Module documentation including the module outline, primary source material, interactive links, reading lists and other information will be posted here.
| Day 1 | 5 July 2017 | Morning  
Introduction  
Historiography and finding primary source material  
Afternoon  
Exploring online databases and resources |
| Day 2 | 7 July 2017 | Morning  
Pre-famine Ireland  
The coming of blight: the famine begins  
Afternoon  
Preparation for group presentations |
| Day 3 | 10 July 2017 | Morning  
The course of famine: local perspectives  
Afternoon  
Relief efforts – state and private relief efforts: topics include a case study of Workhouses, Quaker relief efforts and the other charitable institutions |
| Day 4 | 12 July 2017 | Morning  
Gender and revolution in the famine era: topics include the plight of women, the Repeal movement and convict transportation  
Afternoon  
Landlords and famine: topics include the Encumbered Estates Court, eviction, land clearances and assisted emigration  
[Assignment: Primary source critique due] |
| Day 5 | 17 July 2017 | Morning  
Emigration: Irish famine emigration in context with a particular focus on the Irish in the United States  
Afternoon  
Group presentations |
| Day 6 | 19 July 2017 | Field Trip to EPIC: the Irish Emigration Museum |
| Day 7 | 24 July 2017 | Morning  
Famine memory and commemoration: topics include the folklore commission and the Great Famine in fiction, music, poetry and visual commemoration  
Afternoon  
Essay preparation  
[Assignment: Field Trip Report due] |
| Day 8 | 26 July 2017 | Morning  
Ireland after the famine  
Afternoon  
Module Overview and course conclusions  
[Assignment due: Research Essay] |
**Suggested reading**


Mary Daly, *The Famine in Ireland*, (Dublin, 1986).


Enda Delaney, *The curse of reason, the great Irish famine* (Dublin, 2012).


__________, *The Great Calamity: The Irish Famine 1845-52* (Dublin, 1994).


Ciaran Reilly, *Strokestown and the great Irish famine* (Dublin, 2014)

[Please note, suggested readings for specific themes will be noted in lectures]