

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year 1982-83

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572	Undergraduate Seminar: Modern Irish Nationalism	Donnelly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

(see attached sheet)

LECTURES

Two meetings per week, each meeting to last two hours, from August 30 through October 22, when course will terminate; all meetings to be devoted to discussion of the required readings.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

A research proposal of about fifteen pages focusing on a question or set of related questions needing scholarly investigation, and stating the methods and sources to be used in the search for answers.

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Research proposal (50 percent)
2. Informed participation in seminar discussions (50 percent)

REQUIRED READINGS

(see attached sheet)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Life springs from death," cried a famous Irish rebel in 1915, "and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." The British, he continued, "have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Since the 1790s Irish revolutionary nationalism has drawn much of its strength from this cult of the dead celebrated by Patrick Pearse in 1915. The Irish revolutionary tradition, however, was long denied its goal. Time after time, revolutionary republicanism either failed to arouse mass support, as in 1848, 1867, and 1916, or having done so, as in 1798, was crushed nevertheless. One of our objectives in this course will be to understand the reasons for these repeated defeats. But it was a central aspect of Irish nationalism that even the so-called constitutional nationalists, who rejected violence as the means of overthrowing British rule, were not without sympathy for the revolutionary tradition. We shall therefore be concerned to examine the succession of constitutional nationalist movements not only in their own right but also with an eye to the influence which the revolutionary tradition exercised over them. Finally, we will explore why it was that southern Ireland owed the degree of independence which it achieved in 1921-2 not to the constitutional variety of nationalism, dominant as it usually was, but rather to the violent revolutionary tradition. No doubt the triumph of 1921-2 was incomplete, but it was still substantial. The lesson of this triumph after repeated defeat is one of the things that gives such desperate courage to the Provisional I.R.A. today. History, as they interpret it, teaches them to soldier on, to endure, to suffer -- indeed, to court suffering -- in the unalterable conviction that some day victory will be theirs, theirs again.

REQUIRED READINGS

Bew, Paul, C.S. Parnell (Gill and Macmillan)

Brown, Malcolm, The Politics of Irish Literature (University of Washington Press)

Clark, Samuel, Social Origins of the Irish Land War (Princeton University Press)

Kee, Robert, The Most Distressful Country: Volume One of The Green Flag (Quartet Books)

Lyons, F.S.L., Ireland since the Famine (Fontana Books)

O Broin, Leon, Michael Collins (Gill and Macmillan)

Townsend, Charles, The British Campaign in Ireland, 1919-1921 (Oxford University Press)

Optional Reading:

Holland, Jack, Too Long a Sacrifice (Penguin Books)