HISTORY
From Province to Partition: Ireland 1867 to 1923
Edward Towne MA MST PGCE
4 weeks 10.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22 May
Course code: 18TON381 Course fee: £60

There will also be a follow-on course in the Autumn term 2019
Ireland since Partition: 1922 to the Present

This course will probe and discuss the complex circumstances concerning
Gladstone’s ‘Irish Problem’, the installing of ‘Home Rule’, the Easter Rising of 1916,
the Anglo-Irish War and Partition.

Gladstone eventually favoured Home Rule for Ireland, but his attempts failed. The Asquith
government passed such a bill, but the Great War supervened. The Easter Rising of 1916
failed, but British mistakes created a mood for independence. After a bruising Anglo-Irish
War (1919-1921), Lloyd George agreed to partition Ireland.

Week 1. What was the “Irish Problem” that exercised Gladstone? After more modest
reforms he converted to “Home Rule”, and twice tried to pass such bills, hoping to satisfy
Parnell, the Irish nationalist leader. Why did Gladstone fail?

Week 2. The Asquith government did pass a Home Rule bill in 1914, against Protestant
opposition, but it was never implemented, as the Great War supervened. Thousands of
Irishmen joined up from every background: Catholics sympathized with Belgium and hoped
for Home Rule as their reward. Why then did Asquith succeed with his legislation where
Gladstone had failed?

Week 3. The Easter Rising of 1916 took everyone by surprise, and received – at first – little
support. But heavy-handed British tactics alienated Irish opinion, especially when the
authorities executed several ring-leaders. Sinn Fein emerged as a popular force, particularly
in by-elections and the general election of 1918. An Anglo-Irish war ensued from 1919 to
1921. Why did the Rising fail, yet Sinn Fein gained in popularity?

Week 4. The war was bitterly fought, with no quarter given on either side. The British
deployed the “Black and Tans” and the “Auxis” with a reputation for brutality, and Sinn
Fein/IRA replied in kind. By 1921 clearly neither side could win, and a London conference
agreed on partition. The 6 northern provinces remained with Britain as Northern Ireland,
while the 26 southern counties formed the new state of Eire. Two questions arise: why did both sides decide to settle in 1921? And how far did partition address the issues at stake?

**Suggested reading**


**Additional information**

This course is suitable for all: some prior knowledge would be useful but is not essential. The course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment. There will be discussion opportunities during the course.

**Intended learning outcomes**

(a) An understanding of the so-called “Irish Problem”.
(b) The capacity to account for Gladstone’s failure to achieve Home Rule, and Asquith’s success.
(c) An appreciation of the limited initial success of the Easter Rising.
(d) The ability to explain the outcome of the Anglo-Irish War.
(e) A grasp of the concept of partition, and an evaluation of its chances of success.

**About the tutor**

Edward Towne graduated in European Studies from the University of East Anglia, and later achieved a PGCE from Cambridge, an MA in Early Modern English History from the University of London, and MSt in Twentieth Century British History from the University of Oxford. His professional career was spent teaching History in state and independent Secondary Schools, finally as Head of the History Department. Currently, Edward lectures independently to adults in a variety of organisations, and acts as a reviewer and tour leader on historical topics.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.
- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place; please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:
- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:
- exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
- cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

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For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge.
- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk. No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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