

Ireland Social and Political Issues

This course is designed to introduce students to Irish culture, history and current political issues. The course treats Irish history in chronological order, however the historical events, whenever applicable, are confronted with current problems. Students are introduced to Gaelic society and culture before the British colonised the island, as well as considering the impact of British colonisation. Students analyse the struggle for national emancipation, learn about the nature of the first Irish independent state and its changes, discuss the fundamental features of Ireland in the period of the “Gaelic Tiger” i.e. the economic boom in the late nineties of the 20th century. The *leitmotif* is the question of Irish identity and its formation in political and cultural discourse. During the course students analyse literary texts, Irish films and traditional music.