



History 501: Ireland and the Western Ethos

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St. Columcille Institute 2019 Syllabus

Description: With due attention to extant literary and archaeological source material, this course will seek to illumine the history of Ireland, from pre-Christian times through the trauma of early modernity. The first evangelization of Ireland's Celtic chieftains, the achievements of her medieval monasteries and missionaries, the connections between Ireland and continental civilization, and the fierce resistance to the Elizabethan settlement will all be important themes.

Required Texts: *Swords Around the Cross*, Dr. Timothy T. O'Donnell (book to purchase)
Atlas of Irish History, Sean Duffy (book to purchase)
 "Dispensis" of readings, including selections from:
Gildas (PDF link)
Da Derga's hostel (PDF link)
Confession of St. Patrick (PDF link)
Rule of St. Columcille (PDF link)
Life of St. Columban (PDF link)
Laudabiliter (PDF link)
Medieval Chronicles: (handout provided in class)
Bede: (handout provided in class)

Recommended Texts: *Story of the Irish Race*, Seamus McManus
Irish Timeline – Story of the Irish Race, Richard Killeen

Requirements: Students will be expected to attend all classes, read the assigned materials, participate in discussions, and complete a take-home exam.

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
<i>Week One</i>		
JUL 29	History as an intellectual discipline	
JUL 30	The Celtic Isles	Selections from Gildas and Bede;
JUL 31	Pre-Christian Ireland	The Destruction of Da Derga's Hostel
AUG 1	Patrick and his mission	The Confession of St. Patrick
AUG 2	Celtic and Roman Christianity	Rule of St. Columcille; Life of St. Columban;
<i>Week Two</i>		
AUG 5	Early medieval Ireland and the Vikings	Selections medieval chronicles
AUG 6	Ireland and the Normans	Laudabiliter
AUG 7	The Normans and the Gaels: A Mutual Conquest	Swords Around the Cross Chap 1-3
AUG 8	Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth and Nine Year's War	Swords Around the Cross Chap 4-6
AUG 9	The Nine Year's War	Swords Around the Cross Chap 7-9
<i>Week Three</i>		
AUG 12	The Nine Year's War	Swords Around the Cross Epilogue; Atlas of Irish History p. 62-83
AUG 13	"Only Our Rivers Run Free": The Tragedy and Glory of the Irish Experience	Atlas of Irish History p. 84-101
AUG 14	"Only Our Rivers Run Free": The Tragedy and Glory of the Irish Experience	Atlas of Irish History p. 102-130