



Irish History Class

1983-1998

Six Counties/

Northern Ireland



Wednesdays 6 - 7 pm - April 15, 22 29, and May 6

This course will cover the most significant events from the ending of the hunger strikes to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The curriculum covers:

- The "Supergrass trials" of the 1980s
- The Great Maze Escape in 1983
- The bombing of the Conservative party conference in 1984.
- The Anglo Irish Agreement 1985.
- The decision by Sinn Fein to end abstentionism in 1986
- The John Hume/Gerry Adams talks that began in 1988.
- Shoot-to-kill policies of the British army - the Loughall ambush, killings in Gibraltar and the assassination of solicitor Pat Finucane.
- Media censorship of republicans.
- Collusion between British army, police and loyalist paramilitaries in sectarian killings
- The IRA campaign in England and the resignation of Margaret Thatcher.
- The 1994 IRA ceasefire and the start of peace talks.
- The role of US politicians and US President Bill Clinton.
- The end of the IRA ceasefire when the Conservative Party, under pressure from Unionist politicians, refused to allow Sinn Fein to participate in the formal peace talks.
- In 1996 the IRA bombed the London Docklands and a large part of the center of Manchester city with the largest bomb in Britain since WW2.
- In 1997 Tony Blair became Prime Minister and Sinn Fein won and took their seats for the first time in Leinster House.
- The IRA renewed its ceasefire and Sinn Fein signed the Mitchell Principles as multi-party talks resumed. On the 10th April 1998 the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement was signed.
- In May referendums on the Belfast Agreement were held and passed in both parts of Ireland.
- In May 1998 the Northern Ireland Assembly elections were held.
- In July 1998 a dissident IRA campaign, that continues today, began. One of the first actions was the Omagh bombing that killed 29 civilians.

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