



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

**MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY
IRISH SPORTS & LEADERSHIP
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER
SCHOOL**

SYLLABUS FOR:

*‘Sport in Ireland – The History
of GAA & Cultural Leadership’*

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MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Lecturer TBC	Module code HY	Credits 5 ECTS	Lecture hours Twenty-four
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Module title: Sport in Ireland – The History of the Gaelic Athletic Association and Cultural Leadership

Module content

This module is designed to provide students with a detailed history of the Gaelic Athletic Association and the major social, political, and cultural impacts that it had upon Irish life and society from its establishment in 1884 to the present.

Using a wide range of primary and secondary sources students will explore the significance of the GAA as a sporting and social organisation and in the creation of Irish identity. It will examine such important historical questions as the role of the GAA in the rise of Irish nationalism (political as well as cultural), the involvement of its members in the Great War, and in the IRA during the revolutionary period of 1920-23 (with particular emphasis on Bloody Sunday and its legacy.)

The module will also explore many questions related to cultural leadership as showcased by various figures in the sport from its foundation in 1884 up to the present.

The module will include several field trips, the participation of guest speakers (historians and present day administrators), workshops to assist students in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of primary sources, how to complete their assignments, and to develop their cultural awareness and leadership skills in a sporting setting.

Objectives

At the end of this course students should have a broad understanding of the history of the GAA within the much broader context of the history of Irish society, life and politics. Students will be encouraged to read widely and to engage with historiographical debates around the GAA and to develop an understanding of historical research and the use of primary sources.

Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to demonstrate in their written work an understanding of the main trends, personalities and factors which shaped the history of the GAA in modern Ireland. They should be able to analyse and critically assess primary and secondary sources and present cogent, coherent arguments.

Possible lecture topic

1. Introduction: Sport in Ireland prior to the GAA
2. 'Like a Prairie Fire': Michael Cusack and the formation of the GAA
3. The Early years of the GAA: The Bans & internal strife
4. The GAA and the Nationalism
5. The parish: local identity and the grassroots of the GAA
6. Women and the GAA
7. Croke Park and Bloody Sunday 1922
8. The GAA in Northern Ireland during the Troubles
9. The GAA abroad

Assessment Requirements

Due dates: 7 July 2023: Essay of 3,000 words as agreed/set by course director (75 per cent)

In-class PowerPoint presentations of 10 minutes duration (25 per cent)

Select secondary readings (a more comprehensive bibliography will be supplied on Moodle)

Students are provided with an extensive reading list outlining the main reference, general and GAA-specific works. A short bibliography is appended below.

Ó Tuathaigh, Gearóid (ed.), *The GAA & revolution in Ireland 1913-1923* (Cork: Collins Press, 2015)

Collins, Stephen, 'Michael Cusack and the rise of the GAA' in Biagini, Eugenio; Mulhall, Daniel (ed.), *The shaping of modern Ireland: a centenary assessment* (Irish Academic Press, 2016) pp 63-76

Moore, Cormac, *The GAA v Douglas Hyde: The removal of Ireland's first president as GAA patron* (Cork, 2012)

Cronin, Mike, Duncan, Mark, Rouse, Paul, *The GAA : county by county* (Cork, 2012)

Cronin, Mike; Murphy, William (ed.), *The Gaelic Athletic Association, 1884-2009* (Irish Academic Press, 2009)

McAnallen, Dónal; Hassan, David; Hegarty, Roddy (ed.), *The evolution of the GAA : Ulaidh, Éire agus eile* ([Belfast]: Stair Uladh, 2009)

Cronin, Mike; Durcan, Mark; Rouse, Paul, *The GAA : a people's history* (Cork, 2009)

Corry, Eoghan, *An illustrated history of the G.A.A.* (Dublin, 2005)

Darby, Paul, *Gaelic Games, Nationalism and the Irish Diaspora in the United States* (Dublin, 2009)

Harkin, F, “Where would we be without the GAA?” : Gaelic games and Irishness in London’ in *Irish Studies*, 26:1 (2018)

All of these are available through the Maynooth University Library, either in hard copy or as online resources. To identify additional works pertaining to the Gaelic Athletic Association, students are encouraged to consult Irish History Online

(<https://catalogues.ria.ie/Presto/home/home.aspx>), a bibliography of Irish history, and the library online catalogue (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>).

Moodle

The course outline, lecture slides, reading list, course announcements and links to recommended websites will be posted on Moodle, the university’s online learning environment (moodle.nuim.ie).

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