MA in International Relations:

War and the Transformation of the International System

Programme Notes

Dr. Mervyn O'Driscoll,
Email: mervyn.odriscoll@ucc.ie
Tel: 021 4903477
1. Programme Structure

The MA in International Relations is a one-year Master’s programme with both taught (Part 1) and research (Part II) components. The taught and research components of the course have equal weighting in terms of assessment. Parts I and II must be passed separately.

The programme has two main phases: a teaching phase running from September-March and a research phase that begins in September but is concentrated in April-September.

The deadline for submission of the 2000 word research project proposal is 28 November 2014 at 3 pm. They should be submitted to Ms Geraldine McAllister or Ms Deirdre O’Sullivan at the School of History, Tyrconnell. In the second teaching period students should be in a position to give a detailed presentation on the subject of their research and their findings so far.

The second phase of the course is devoted entirely to the preparation of a c.20,000 word thesis for submission in September 2015 (actual deadline to be notified). Late submission will incur heavy penalties.

Pass and honours for the MA, based on combined Part I and II results will be awarded as follows:

1st Class - 70%+
2nd Class - 60%+
Pass - 40%+
2. The Taught Modules

The taught component of the MA consists of three modules and a discussion seminar as follows:

**Three** compulsory modules:

HI6055 *Understanding International Conflict*, 10 credits
HI6026: *US Foreign Policy and Contemporary History*, 10 credits
HI6056: *Issues in World Politics*, 5 credits

Students also take **two** of:

HI6035: *Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: Case Studies in Crises and Decision-making*, 10 credits
HI6045: *War and Peace: the European State System from 1648 to 1990*, 10 credits
HI6060: *The Politics of Terrorism*, 10 credits
HI6063: *Work Placement and Portfolio*, 10 credits
3. Module Descriptions

**HI6055 Understanding International Conflict (10 credits)**

Lecturers: Dr Mervyn O’Driscoll; Dr Michael Cosgrave.

This module examines major debates and case studies relating to the nature of, origins of, and solution to contemporary international conflict. Several contemporary case studies of power bargaining, international institutions, conflict and peace will be investigated. It introduces students to IR debates on the changing nature of war and peace, the nature of foreign policy, the nature of the state, warfare and security.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay: 100 marks; a portfolio of work including short essays and reviews, policy papers and in-class exercises: 100 marks).

Timetable: Semester 1, Wednesday, 2-4 pm, ORB 101 (2 hours)
HI6026 US Foreign Policy and Contemporary History (10 credits)

Lecturer: Professor David Ryan

This module examines the history of contemporary US foreign policy. It analyses key issues in the history of US foreign policy during the Cold War and after. It engages with the primary concerns in the superpower relationship, regional alliances, challenges to the United States in the form of nationalism, revolutionary movements, and more recent forms particularly in the Middle East. The module proceeds to investigate a range of contemporary concerns and issues.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 2,000 word conceptual essay: 75 marks; 1 x 4,000 word essay: 100 marks; seminar participation and presentation: 25 marks).

Timetable: Semester 1, Tuesday, 1-3, Seminar Room, Tyrconnell, School of History
HI6045 War and Peace: the European State System from 1648 to 1990 (10 credits)

Lecturer: Dr Detmar Klein

This course explores the development of the European state system from the Thirty Years War to the end of the Cold War. It analyses the origins and resolutions of major European conflicts. Students learn to think conceptually and historically about International Relations.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: End of Year Written Examination 200 marks.

Timetable: Semester 2, Wednesday, 11-1 pm, Tyrconnell Seminar Room
HI6035 Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: Case Studies in Crises and Decisionmaking (10 credits)

Module Co-ordinator: Professor Geoffrey Roberts

This module analyses how governments make and implement foreign policy. It introduces the contributions that history, International Relations and models of foreign policy analysis make to the examination of national foreign policies, decisionmaking and international crises. Diverse national case studies and international crises are examined using documentary evidence.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay: 125 marks; document-based exam: 75 marks).

Timetable: Semester 2, Tuesdays 10 am – 12 noon, Connolly S2.
HI6056 Issues in World Politics (5 credits)

Lecturer: Dr David Fitzgerald

Teaching Methods: 24 x 1hr(s) Seminars; Directed Study (Associated readings and presentations).

In the first term the seminar will provide a weekly forum for the discussion of major issues and controversies in contemporary world politics. All students will contribute to discussion of selected texts.

In the second term the seminar will be mainly devoted to student presentations on their dissertation research and the exploration of research techniques and strategies.

Assessment: Total Marks 100: Continuous Assessment 100 marks (class participation: 25 marks; 1 x 2,000 word Research Project’s Proposal: 75 marks).

Timetable: Semester 1: Wednesdays, 5-6pm, Semester 2: Wednesdays, 6-7pm, Tyrconnell Seminar Room.
HI6060 The Politics of Terrorism (10 credits)

**Lecturer:** Dr David Fitzgerald

This module investigates the historical basis of terrorism. It will analyse the many examples of terrorism in an Irish, European and International context as well as examining the ideological, political and social basis of terrorist action. The module will be examined through a variety of seminars, readings, original documents and multi-media presentations including DVD documentaries.

Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 3,000 word essay - 150 marks; Seminar participation and presentation - 50 marks).

Timetable: Semester Two, Thursday 11-1 p.m., Tyrconnell Seminar Room
HI6063 Work Placement and Portfolio (10 credits)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr David Fitzgerald.

Teaching Methods: 200hr(s) Placements (Internship, Preparation sessions and self-reflection).

Students will participate a work placement or internship with a minimum of 200 hours of engagement on placement and completing the preparation and assessment components. The placement can be paid or unpaid, or supported by external funding (e.g. Erasmus), and can occur in a variety of relevant campus, local, national or international settings.

Assessment: Total Marks 200: Continuous Assessment 200 marks (1 x 4,000 word essay: 100 marks; a portfolio of work including short essays and reviews, policy papers and in-class exercises: 100 marks).

Timetable: Semesters 1 & 2, time of briefing session TBA
Assessment Submission Notes:

1. All written assignments for the taught modules must be submitted to Ms. Deirdre O’Sullivan or Ms. Geraldine O’Sullivan, Senior Executive Assistant (responsible for postgraduate matters), Tyrconnell, School of History.

2. Two copies of all assignments must be submitted in all cases and the appropriate forms completed.

3. Late submissions will only be accepted up to three weeks after the deadline. Late submissions will automatically be penalized, but students may apply for a late penalty exemption at the time of submission. Each module team will update you on the detailed procedures. Such applications will be considered the relevant School of History Committee and the judgment communicated by same in due course.

4. Electronic submission to Turnitin on the relevant Blackboard site for taught modules is required. Your module lecturing team will clarify this when they introduce the modules and discuss assessments.
4. The Thesis

The thesis may be on any feasible topic within the broad subject area of International Relations, including International History. Preparation to undertake the thesis commences from arrival on the programme in September 2014. Preliminary reading, research and discussions with staff commence immediately in light of the centrality of the MA thesis to the overall MA. 50% of the final grade you will receive for your MA will be determined by your thesis performance.

The MA taught module loading is much lower than that prevailing at the BA level for good reason. This enables steady and substantial progress throughout the entire 12 months duration of the programme. Students are advised to approach individual lecturers within 4 weeks of the start of the academic year with a fixed and developed research idea to discuss feasibility, research timetables, literature etc.

Staff possess a lot of postgraduate supervisory experience so maintain regular contact with them, but ensure that you always complete the necessary groundwork required before you meet members of staff.

All class members are required to produce a detailed 2,000 word research proposal by 28 November 2014 at 3 pm. The proposals should be submitted to Ms Geraldine McAllister or Ms Deirdre O’Sullivan at the School of History, Tyrconnell. In the second teach period students should be in a position to give a detailed presentation on the subject of their research and their findings so far (as part of HI6056 – see above).

Students will be formally allocated an individual supervisor in the second teaching period. Your supervisor will provide guidance on researching and writing the thesis. All theses will be examined by an external as well as an internal examiner.
5. Library Resources

Detailed reading lists will be issued for each course by the relevant lecturers. UCC library has a reasonable selection of the general IR literature together with more specific texts on individual states and institutions. A good place to start is section 327 on Q+1 (but note that relevant literature may be found in other sections as well). Relevant periodicals subscribed to by the library include: *Review of International Studies, International Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Security, The International History Review, Strategic Studies, Survival, The World Today, World Politics, Millennium* and *Irish Studies in International Affairs*. A highly recommended record of world political developments is *Keesing’s Record of World Events* - also available in the library. *The Economist* is also a very useful source on current international affairs and carries many valuable supplements on the global economy and other subjects.

NOTE: An introduction to using UCC library and its resources will be provided as part of the general postgraduate seminar.

A number of very useful databases are subscribed to by the UCC Library. Go to http://booleweb.ucc.ie/databases/elec.htm (to consult JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, Electronic Journals, Oxford University Press Journals, Irish Newspapers Archive, Project Muse, Historical Abstracts, Cambridge Journals Online, EBSCO, Euromonitor, Index to Theses, Keesings, Northern Ireland Cabinet Papers 1921-72, Proquest Dissertations and Theses, Social Sciences Collection, Web of Knowledge, Source OECD, World Development Indicators, World Political Science Abstracts, ACLS E-Book etc).

Also of use is Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) which is accessible through UCC library at http://0-www.ciaonet.org.innopac.ucc.ie/. This is a vast collection of materials relating to international affairs generally.
5. The Internet

There is a ever growing volume of data and published material on international politics available on the internet. The following are good starting places:

- Virtual Resources: International Relations Research Resources on the Web: http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/INOR/deibert-guide.TOC.html
- Foreign Policy Online: Internet Resources: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/Resources?Default.htm
- Cold War International History Project: http://www.cwhip.si.edu
- Foreign Relations of the United States post-1960: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/ (however this is not totally complete but some of the missing volumes are available in the OPC/EDC)
- Foreign Relations of the United States pre-1960: http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FRUS/
- Documents on Irish Foreign Policy online, pre-1939: http://www.difp.ie/browse-volumes/
- Irish National Archives: http://www.nationalarchives.ie/
- UK National Archives: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
- CVCE (previously European Navigator), European Integration Online Archive: http://www.cvce.eu/
- National Security Archive: http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/
• United Nations Documents:  
  http://www.un.org/en/docu-
  ments/

• Carnegie Endowment for  
  International Peace: http://
  carnegieendowment.org/

Note: All UCC students are entitled to internet access (and email facilities) via college computer facilities.

**Contact:** Charlotte Holland,  
Senior Executive Assistant, 5 Perrott Avenue, School of History  
E: c.holland@ucc.ie  
T: 021 4902551
6. Official Publications/
Robert Schuman EDC, Law
Section, UCC Library.

The library’s European Docu-
mentation Centre is an official
repository for EU documents
and publications. Associated
with it is an Official Publications
section which has holdings
of the publications of various
governments and of interna-
tional organisations such as the
UN, the OECD, the CE and the
IBRD. Published collections of
American, British, French and
Irish foreign policy documents
are also predominantly available
here.

Note: The OPC/EDC has its
own and valuable list of official
sources:

7. School of History Resourc-
es.

History postgraduates are enti-
tied to use the computer room
on the Ground Floor of 5 Perrott
Avenue. This is equipped with
networked computers, a micro-
film reader/printer and a book
swap facility.

Postgraduate matters including
submission and registration of
all essays and general admin-
istration are taken of care of by
Ms Deidre O’Sullivan and Ms
Geraldine McAllister in the main
history administrative office,
Ground Floor, 5 Perrott Avenue.
Email: Deirdre@ucc.ie
Tel: 021 4902755.

8. The Language Centre

UCC’s Language Centre offers
students introductory, intermedi-
ate and advanced courses in a
number of European languages.
Available also are self-study ma-
terials - tapes, videos, instruc-
tional booklets - for a variety of
foreign languages.

NOTE: additional fees are paya-
ble for the taught courses.
9. The History/IR Staff

**Dr Mike Cosgrave** works on military history and leadership in history, teaching on international organisations with publications on the scholarship of teaching and learning and is involved in the UCC contribution to national the Digital Arts & Humanites Phd Programme funded by PRTLI V.

M.Cosgrave@ucc.ie

**Dr David Fitzgerald**, specialist in American military and foreign policy with a particular interest in counterinsurgency warfare, the nature of ‘small wars’ and the relationship between the military and broader culture and society.

D.Fitzgerald@ucc.ie

**Dr Detmar Klein** works on topics relating to 19th & 20th century French and German history, with a special emphasis on Alsace, Franco-German relations and issues of national identity.

D.Klein@ucc.ie

**Dr Mervyn O’Driscoll** (MA co-ordinator) specialises in nuclear history/politics, European integration and Irish foreign policy. He has interests in small states, Anglo-American relations, 20th century international history, IR theory and strategy.

m.odriscoll@ucc.ie

**Professor Geoffrey Roberts**, specialist in International History, Soviet and Russian foreign policy and IR theory

g.roberts@ucc.ie

**Professor David Ryan**, specialist in contemporary history, American history and US foreign policy concentrating on the interventions in the post-Vietnam era, including Central America, Angola, Vietnam, and the Middle East amongst other places.

David.ryan@ucc.ie
Postgraduate Administration
Geraldine McAllister and Deidre O’Sullivan, Executive Assistants (job-share)
Deirdre@ucc.ie
Tel: 4902755

Computer Room Access:
Charlotte Holland, Senior Executive Assistant, 5 Perrott Avenue, School of History
E: c.holland@ucc.ie
T: 021 4902551