**Spring 2018 Honors Seminar:** 01:090:297:01

**The Troubles: Partition, Sectarianism, Peace and Reconciliation in N. Ireland**

**Course Outline**: The course will examine the social and political development of Northern Ireland in the modern era. It will focus in particular on Plantation, the United Irishmen revolt of 1798, the Partition of Ireland (1920), Sectarianism, the 'Troubles' and the peace process in Northern Ireland. We’ll consider poetry, folk songs, speeches, and, in particular, plays, using them as starting points from which to explore these key moments in the evolution of Northern Ireland. At the heart of the Seminar will be a week-long (Spring Break), one-credit study abroad experience in Northern Ireland.

**This course satisfies the SAS Core Goal**: WCD (t, u, v). Student is able to:

(t)--Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry

(u)--Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly

(v)—analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights

**Course Objectives**: Students will

* gain an overview of Ireland’s modern history and political development;
* examine Northern Ireland’s path to Partition and its political and social development before and after 1920;
* gain an insight into the process of peace and reconciliation;
* gain insight into how literature, especially drama, can be used to explore history;
* be challenged, via creative assignments and performance, to engage with Northern Irish history

*The History*

*The Story of Ireland* (DVD), narrated by Feargal Keane

*Literary Texts*

**Plays** Translations (1980), Making History (1988) Friel, Brian

Over the Bridge (1957), Thompson, Sam

Northern Star (1984) Parker, Stewart

The Cure at Troy (1991) Heaney, Seamus

Across the Roaring Hill (1980) Grant, David

Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching to the Somme (1985) McGuinness, Frank

The Ferryman (2017), Butterworth, Jez

**Poetry** (from): Louis MacNeice (Valediction, Prayer before Birth, Autumn Journal), Seamus Heaney (Requiem for the Croppies, Act of Union, The Forge, Postscript from *The Spirit Level*)

**Speeches by:** Theobald Wolfe Tone (Speech from the Dock, 1798); Edward Carson (1912); Ian Paisley; Bernadette Devlin; Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton

Recommended Reading, Viewing, Listening

Novels:*Eureka Street*, Robert McLiam Wilson; *Transatlantic*, McCann, Colum; *The Emperor of Ice Cream*, Moore, Brian; *The Star Man*, O'Clery, Conor

Movies: The Crying Game (1992) Jordan, Neil; Cal (1984) O'Connor, Pat; In the Name of the Father (1993) Sheridan, Jim; Hunger (2008) Steve McQueen; Omagh (2004) Travis, Pete

Northern Irish bands: The Undertones, Stiff Little Fingers, Van Morrison