I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical origin of the Republic of Ireland; focuses upon the principal officers and institutions of the national government (Dáil Éireann, Taoiseach, Uachtaran na hÉireann, Departments, and State-Sponsored Bodies), the local government system; political parties, and interest groups; and analyzes the politics of the decision-making processes. The above institutions are examined on a comparative basis with their counterparts in other parliamentary nations, including the United Kingdom and the Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

II. REQUIRED BOOKS

Muiris MacCarthaigh, Government in Modern Ireland (Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, 2008).

III. READING ASSIGNMENTS

3. The Electoral System: Coakley and Gallagher, Chap. 4.
4. Patterns of Participation and Representation: Coakley and Gallagher, Chaps. 8 and 12.
5. Political Parties: Coakley and Gallagher, Chaps. 5-6.
6. Pressure Groups: Coakley and Gallagher, Chap. 11.
8. The Oireachtas: MacCarthaigh, Chaps. 4-6, and Coakley and Gallagher, Chap. 7.

IV. CLASS ATTENDANCE AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS

Class attendance is mandatory. Each student is responsible for materials presented in lectures which contain information not found in the assigned readings. Unexcused absences result in a lowering of the course grade.

If you experience health, financial, or other problems that interfere with your studies, please notify me and we may be able to make special arrangements during the problem period.
V. QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS

Periodic short quizzes will be administered to assess progress made by students. In addition, three equally weighted examinations will be administered. All quizzes and examinations will be announced in advance. The third and final examination will be held in the classroom on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the classroom. Consult the Quiz and Examination on pages 6-7.

VI. RESEARCH PAPER

A short prospectus (three pages maximum) is due on February 13, 2014, and should describe briefly the research topic, and the methodology to be employed. Topics must relate to the government and politics of the Republic of Ireland. Papers may not be written on the Irish Republican Army. Please include your E-mail address and telephone number in the prospectus. Failure to turn in the prospectus on the due date results in an automatic ZERO.

An extensive bibliography supporting your research paper and an outline are due on March 11, 2014. Failure to turn in the bibliography on the due date results in an automatic ZERO.

A complete draft of a well-written and documented research paper is due on March 25, 2014. A revised draft of the research paper is due on April 10, 2014. Two copies of your final revised research paper are due at the beginning of class on April 24, 2014.

The research topic should be narrowed sufficiently to facilitate completion of an in-depth research paper. Papers will be returned without a grade if they contain an excessive number of typographical, grammatical, and/or spelling errors. A paper will receive a grade of ZERO if there are no numbers on the pages.

Care should be exercised in writing the paper to ensure answers are provided to the following questions: Where? When? For Whom? By Whom? How? What?

A research paper MUST be based upon “PRIMARY” sources of information; i.e., the original publication containing the information. A “secondary” source should be utilized only when the “primary” source is unavailable in the Capital District since a “secondary” source may contain typographical errors and/or contain material taken out of context. Many of the works cited in the syllabus’ bibliography are not available in the University Library. Please contact the Interlibrary Loan Office for these and other publications unavailable in the University Library.

Please use CAPTIONS (headings)—center and side—to divide your paper into sections. The first caption should be a center one and under it should be placed subcaptions on the left side of the paper. The number of center captions is determined by the number of major sections of your paper.
NOTES

Documentation is important in a research paper, but over-documentation should be avoided. A complete citation must be provided for each direct or indirect quotation of a statement made by another individual. Citations must be provided for all constitutional provisions, statutes, statutory instruments, and court decisions. In addition, a citation must be provided for information that is not general knowledge.

Each note must be placed at the FOOT OF THE PAGE of the research paper. Notes must follow the style listed below:

1. The first reference to a work must be a full citation. Subsequent citations must be by the author’s surname and an abridged but unambiguous form of title and the precise page(s).
2. Op. Cit. and Loc. Cit. must not be used.
3. Ibid. may be used.
4. A definite scheme of abbreviations may be used in the notes for sources cited repeatedly provided a list of abbreviations is provided.
5. Exact page references must be cited.
6. Include in parenthesis after the address of an electronic source the name of the newspaper, periodical, or organization. Include the page number(s) if listed.

Sample note and bibliographic entries are listed below:

Notes:


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Where appropriate, the Bibliography should be divided into the following sections: Public Documents, Books and Pamphlets, Articles, and Unpublished Material.
BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS


PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

*Bunreacht Na hÉireann,* art. 10, par. 1.

ARTICLES


UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS


ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Electronic sources should be cited on a separate page with the caption ELECTRONIC SOURCES. Include the name of the newspaper, periodical, or organization in parenthesis.
VII. GRADE ELEMENTS

Each examination will count as one-fifth of your course grade as will quizzes collectively, and your research paper.

VIII. OFFICE LOCATION HOURS

Office hours are 10:10 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Contact Office of Rockefeller College in HU16. In addition, office hours are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Richardson Hall, Room 288 on the downtown campus. (Take the University bus to Draper Hall and walk one building back toward the uptown campus). Other hours may be scheduled by appointment. Messages can be left in my mail box in Milne Hall on the downtown campus.

You are free to telephone me at home (439-9440) if you are unable to contact me at my office (442-5378). The office telephone number is a direct line and you may leave a message on voice mail if I am not in the office. My E-Mail address is jzimmerman@albany.edu.
Irish Government and Politics Quiz

If a statement is true, place a “T” before the number of the statement. If a statement is false, place a “F” before the number of the statement and convert the statement into a true statement.

1. A Member of Dáil Éireann is elected by a plurality vote in a single-member constituency.

2. The Irish Parliament may propose a constitutional amendment that becomes effective upon receiving a majority vote in a national referendum.

3. The Oireachtas created a relatively large number of state sponsored bodies over which it exercises relatively little control.

4. John Coakley wrote “political culture is an elusive concept” in the Republic of Ireland.

5. Once a bill is on the statute books, it is open to challenge by anyone whom it affects.

6. The Irish Parliament annually enacts a large number of bills into law.

7. Committees play an important role in each house of the Oireachtas.

8. The President may refer a bill enacted by the Oireachtas to the Supreme Court for an opinion on the constitutionality of the bill.

9. The Oireachtas is composed of the President, Dáil Éireann, and Seanad Éireann.

10. The President of the Republic of Ireland is the chief executive.
PART I (20%)

Answer Five (5)

1. Taniste
2. Oireachtas
3. Statutory Instruments
4. The Cabinet
5. Fine Gael
6. The Front Bench

PART II (80%)

Answer Two (2)

1. What is the constitutionally prescribed relationship between the President of the Republic of Ireland and the Taoiseach? To what extent is each officer independent of the other? Is there a need for a President of Ireland? Is there a need for a Taoiseach? Please provide reasons for your answer to each question.

2. Describe the constituency roles of Dáil deputies. Do these roles facilitate or hamper the Deputies’ law-making responsibilities? Please provide reasons for your answers.

3. What are the key provisions of the Irish parliamentary system? Which provisions are most important in terms of ensuring the Government is held responsible to the voters?
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


Daly, Mary E., ed. *County and Town: One Hundred Years of Local Government in Ireland*. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, 2001.


