2012

ECON 390 Topics in Economics: Globalization and the Case of Ireland

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Survey of Course
One can hardly open a book or newspaper or turn on the television without hearing something about “globalization.” We hear about the promise and the problems of economic globalization, about newly emerging global cultural forms, and global terrorism. Businesses attempt to strategize about it, students and workers both in the United States and abroad protest it, and scholars attempt to define it and to understand its impacts upon our laws, our economies, our identities and our values. “Globalization” is and will continue to define critical dimensions of our present and our future. This course views globalization from both an overall perspective and from the perspective of the specific case of Ireland, a country which has been impacted acutely by globalization, from its colonial relationship to England, to its struggle as a newly independent nation in the world economy, to its rapid growth as the Celtic Tiger, to its current financial and debt crises. The heart of the course consists of readings, lectures, and travel to some of the most important sites in Ireland that explain the impact of globalization on the Irish economy.

Assignments (60% of final grade)
Each student will be responsible for three brief essays that include analyses of sites we visit and/or guest lectures we attend. These reviews should summarize and assess the importance of these sites/lectures in explaining the specific case of Ireland’s experience in globalization. Each of these reviews should be 3-4 pages (double-spaced, typed) and will account for twenty percent of the student’s final grade. These reviews are due July 15 to www.turnitin.com. The course ID for logon is 5046564 and the password is “economics.” The three essays analyzing sites/guest lectures, should be put on ONE document.

Exam (40% of final grade)
There will be a final comprehensive take-home exam. This essay exam will consist of several essay questions on the readings, and may also require students to refer to their experiences in Ireland. Each answer should be 2-3 double-spaced typed pages. This exam will account for forty percent of the student’s final grade. The completed exam is due July 15 to www.turnitin.com. The course ID for logon is 5046564 and the password is “economics.”

Book and Readings for the Course
Readings listed below. Most if not all readings are available on Blackboard, and you are encouraged to read ahead. Readings marked with an (*) are required; others are optional. It is strongly suggested that you keep a journal of notes on all readings and site visits, which will be invaluable in completing your assignments.
Itinerary of Travel, Lectures, and Readings

I. Overview of globalization, and the case of Ireland:

Readings to be completed before you depart for the trip:


II. The Role of the IT Sector and the Creative Impulse in the Celtic Tiger Period

Readings for June 5:


III. Financial Collapse and the Current Economic Challenges facing Ireland

Readings for June 7:


IV. The Importance of Irish Agriculture to the Irish Economy

Readings for June 7:


V. The Role of Tourism in the Irish Economy

Readings for June 11:
VI. The Future of the Green Economy in Ireland

Readings for June 11:

VII. The Critical Role of the Pharmaceutical Sector

Readings for June 12:

VIII. Public Policy and Globalization in the Irish Context

Readings for June 12:
*Finbarr Bradley and James J. Kennelly (2008), Capitalising on Culture, Competing on Difference: Innovation, Learning and a Sense of Place in a Globalising Ireland (Dublin: Blackhall), Ch. 3 “Creating Sustainable Competitive Advantage,” pp. 67-89.

IX. The Future of Globalization

Readings may be completed after you return from the trip:
*Jagdish Bhagwati, In Defense of Globalization, Ch. 16, “Coping with Downsides”
*Tony Judt (2010), Ill Fares the Land (New York: Penguin), Ch. 6, “The Shape of Things to Come,” pp. 189-225.
Tentative Schedule of Activities and Site Visits

April 15  Orientation

June 1 – Depart from the US

June 2 – Arrive in Dublin and Drive to Bansha Castle – Evening at O’Heney’s Pub

June 3 – Tour the Rock of Cashel and Attend a GAA match – Evening at Nellie’s Pub

June 4 – Visit Danny O’Connell’s Horse Farm and Training Center – Tour Cahir Castle, the Swiss Cottage, and the Vee Road – Evening at the Foot Pub

June 5 – Visit Cartoon Saloon, Kilkenny Castle and Town - Viewing of The Secret of Kells - Dinner and Discussion on the Irish Economy with Dr. Teresa Reidy of University College Cork

June 6 – Visit Ballymaloe, Ballycotton, and Knockadoon Head - Evening of Traditional Music and Dance at Tig Roy’s in the Glen of Aherlow

June 7 – Visit the University of Limerick and Economist Stephen Kinsella – Tour of John Magner’s Dairy Farm - Dinner with Local Farmers and Discussion of the Agricultural Sector of the Economy – Evening at O’Keeffe’s Pub in Clonmel

July 8 – Visit Holy Cross Abbey and Athassel Priory – Visit to the Tipperary Water Treatment Plant with Ailbe Grace - Nature Walk with Local Guide Nancy Leahy – Barbeque at Bansha Castle - Evening Session of Music at Bansha Castle

June 9 – Drive to Coole Park and on to Galway – Walking Tour of the City – Dinner at McDonough’s Fish and Chips – Evening of Traditional Music at Pubs in Galway

June 10 – Visit to the Spiddal Craft Village, Tour of Connemara, and Evening of Traditional Ballads with Heritage Expert, Thatcher, and Musician Gerry Joyce

June 11 – Tour of Inis Meáin (Including the Sweater Factory and Electric Cars) and Synge’s Cottage and Chair – Evening at Monroe’s Pub

June 12 – Meeting at the IDA in Galway – Shopping in Galway City

June 13 – Drive to Dublin, Visit Newgrange and Arrive in Dublin - Guest Lecture by Finbarr Bradley on National Culture and Economic Innovation at Bewley’s Hotel

June 14 – Walking Tour of Dublin - Visit the National Gallery of Art, Kilmainham Jail, O’Connell Street, and Temple Bar

June 15 – Depart from Dublin Airport