Syllabus

Course Title: Ireland's Four Courts: A Legal Legacy

Program and Date: Ireland: May 30 – June 13, 2027

Academic Department: Legal Studies, Thomas More University

Instructor Name: Donna M. Bloemer

Instructor Email and Phone: dmbloemer@fuse.net 859-391-2554

Get to Know Your Professor

Welcome to our exploration of our legal legacy from Ireland! I am a practicing attorney and started my teaching career at Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University and have been an adjunct professor for over 20 years at my alma mater, Thomas More University. I subsequently began teaching at Gateway Community and Technical College and have enjoyed that as well. I studied in Britain while I attended Chase College of Law and I will bring my educational background and practical knowledge that I have gained from practicing law to teach this class.

Course Description

This course provides participants with the rare opportunity to experience first-hand the bedrock of the Irish legal tradition. We will observe civil and criminal trials at Ireland's Four Courts and enrich our understanding of the historical and cultural underpinnings of the Irish legal tradition with visits to Kilmainham Gaol Museum, the Irish Houses of Parliament, Glasnevin Cemetery, and Trinity College to see the Book of Kells. We will also travel to beautiful Galway where we'll hear from a practicing barrister, reflecting on his experience of international law, and visit a Legal Aid clinic to see volunteers in action. This class enables students to recognize and articulate how American statutes have evolved and to glean how Irish courtrooms have shaped our legal legacy.

Course Level and Credit Hours

Upper level; 3 hours.

Prerequisite(s)

None.

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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the structures of the Irish court system
- Apply the concept of English common law to the various court systems and recognize the corresponding authority it bestows upon the courts.
- Identify the various actors in the Dublin courtrooms and the roles they play in the daily functions of the court system.
- Recognize and articulate how American civil and criminal statutes have been enacted from the English common law.
- Describe and discuss distinctive aspects of Irish historical traditions and culture.

Required Readings and Materials

Glendon, Mary Ann, Paolo G. Carozza and Colin B. Picker, 2015, *Comparative Legal Traditions in a Nutshell*, Fourth Edition St Paul; West Publishing Co. ISBN-13: 978-0314285607

Cohen, Morris L. 1989. "*The Common Law in the American Legal System: The Challenge of Conceptual Research.*" The Yale Law School Legal Scholarship Repository. (Available on-line)

Hand-outs and/or online sources will be provided as needed.

Assignments and Grades Assignments & Weighting

Students will be graded according to the following scale:

Class Participation	15%
Pre-Departure Assignment	15%
Journal Entries	35%
Post Program Final paper	35%

Students should come to sessions prepared to fully participate in discussion and work activities. Professor will use a variety of methods including lectures, in-class assignments and/or activities, assigned readings, group work and application of outside material.

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

A:	90-100
B:	80-89
C:	70-79
D:	60-69
F:	59 and Below

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Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the site visits listed below. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

- Four Courts in Dublin
- Kilmainham Gaol Museum
- Trinity College and the Book of Kells.
- Saint Patrick's Cathedral
- Dublin Castle
- The Guinness Storehouse
- The Aran Island of Inis Mór
- A working sheep farm
- An Irish Dance exhibition

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Academic Integrity Policy

CCSA member institutions exist for the sake of the advancement of knowledge; the pursuit of truth; the intellectual, ethical and social development of students, and the general well-being of society. All students have an obligation to themselves, to their peers and to the institution to uphold the integrity of their home university. In the area of academic honesty, this means that one's work should be one's own and that the instructor's evaluation should be based on the student's own efforts and understanding. When the standards of academic honesty are breached, mutual trust is undermined, the ideals of personal responsibility and autonomy are violated, teaching and learning are severely compromised, and other goals of the academic community cannot be realized. For a thorough description of policies, please refer to the Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy in your home university's Course Catalogue.

Academic Honesty will be strictly enforced in this course. The instructor reserves the right to give a zero for the assignment or a zero in the course depending on the circumstances of the offense.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

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Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.