

IRISH/HIST/EUROST 183.001

Exam 1

Spring 2015

Due Date: Wednesday, March 11th, 11:59 pm (to nicholas.wolf@nyu.edu)

You will receive a confirmation e-mail showing receipt of the exam. Keep this message—it will be required as proof of submission should I not receive your exam.

The exam should be completed using the resources of the class (lecture notes, readings, your knowledge). The exam is not intended to require outside research, and the use of further sources beyond the class materials will not earn higher scores.

High-quality answers will make close use of both readings and lecture. Any written sources cited (either as quotations or for content) must be cited using footnotes according to Chicago style (see style sheet below). **Note that class lecture need not be cited** (this is considered part of your current general knowledge). But any other written sources from the class must be cited by footnote. Do not include a bibliography.

All exam answers must be original work.

Part 1: Short Answers (30%)

Select **THREE** from the following short answer questions, and in 3-4 fact-filled paragraphs EACH, give a brief but thorough answer. Each short answer will be worth 10 points.

1. What were some of the main complaints about the Irish House of Commons in the period 1782-1800, and what was proposed by reformers to change it? (consider religious, class, and political concerns)
2. Give some examples of agrarian secret societies active in Ireland after 1760. What were their tactics and what did they demand?
3. What were the provisions of the Poor Law Act (Ireland) of 1838, and what were its weaknesses both before and during the Famine?
4. Why was Catholic emancipation so long in coming when the possibility of its enactment had been proposed as far back as the 1790s?

Part 2: Essay (70%)

Select **ONE** question from the following and provide a detailed answer in essay form (with intro/thesis, body paragraphs, and conclusion). The essay should be approximately 3-4 pages in length, double spaced, 12 pt font. Avoid vague description in your answer; seek to provide a thoughtful and nuanced response. Note that the format of the question asks you to take a stand on an issue and build a case. Keep this in mind when formulating your thesis statement.

1. Why didn't the 1798 uprising by the United Irishmen succeed in its aims to overthrow British rule and institute an Irish republic? Consider multiple causes (sectarianism, military reasons, organizational factors, ideological influences) and explain which of these factors may have had the greatest impact.

2. How did Daniel O’Connell and his supporters manage to secure Catholic Emancipation in 1829? What were some of the larger transformations in political movements at this time that were reflected in the Catholic Association, and how did they change the character of Irish participation in the public sphere?
3. Although the charge of genocide does not fit the case, the British government was certainly guilty of many serious sins of omission and commission in its response to the crisis of the Great Famine. Discuss the validity of this proposition in both of its parts.

Citing Sources in Formal Writing: Chicago Style

I. Footnotes

In Your Text:

At the point of citation, insert either a footnote or an endnote using your word processor’s “References > Footnote/Endnote” function.

Example 1: Books

[Text] Shakespeare’s play is believed to date to 1610 or 1611, and features a significant scene in which the character Prospero seeks to control the weather.¹

[Footnote]

¹ William Shakespeare, The Tempest (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003), 109.

Example 2: Online Sources

[Text] It is clear that the Greeks themselves had more than one meaning for the word *demokratia*.¹

[Footnote]

¹ Paul Cartledge, “The Democratic Experiment,” BBC Ancient History: The Greeks, http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/greekdemocracy_01.shtml (online), par. 2.

Example 3: Articles

[Text] Between 1860 and 1890, British parliamentary politics were “absolutely dominated” by two skilled prime ministers, Gladstone and Disraeli.²

[Footnote]

² Richard Lyons, “Late Victorian Politics, Liberals, and the Tories,” Past and Present 2 no. 3 (Spring 1974): 123.

Example 4: Chapters in Books (separately authored)

[Text] Most historians would agree with the assessment of John Carter, who has made a careful analysis of the causes of the American Civil War.³

[Footnote] ² John Carter, “Whither the Causes of America’s War?” in America 1850-1870: Essays on a Troubled Time, ed. James Fenton and Mary Jeffries (New York: Macmillan Press, 2002), 108.