

# Ireland

## Transformation of Social and Political Conflict

Explore the changing face of conflict studies through immersion in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## Coursework

**Please note:** This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit [www.sit.edu/IER](http://www.sit.edu/IER) for details.

### Transformation of Social and Political Conflict Seminar

PEAC 3000 / 8 credits / 120 class hours

An interdisciplinary course with required readings and relevant educational excursions in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Students examine current theories of conflict and conflict transformation, with a particular focus on social and political inequality, sectarian and ethnic conflict, and the creation of sustainable peace. Lecturers are drawn from Trinity College, University College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, and practitioners in the field.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Conflict Studies Theory*

Dynamics of conflict; anatomy of violence and alternatives; nonviolence, gender, and conflict; transitional justice; truth recovery; principles of conflict transformation; ethics of peace and war. Theoretical models from leaders in conflict research are presented and discussed in an academic context and explored through activities and group work.

#### *Conflict Resolution, Mediation, and Negotiation Techniques*

Workshops in communication, negotiation, and mediation practices presented by practitioners in Belfast and at Glencree and Corrymeela Reconciliation Centers.

#### *Historical Roots of Conflict*

Overview of the social and political history of modern Ireland; colonial practice and its legacy; the Irish Republican tradition; development of nationalism and militant and nonviolent resistance to colonial rule.

#### *Identity Politics and Conflict Resolution*

Causes, effects, and escalation of conflict in Northern Ireland; motivations of political actors and groups; impact of violence on the political system and civil society; political solutions for a divided society; role of external agents; formation of a peace process.

#### *Structural Violence and the State*

Conflict rooted in socioeconomic divisions and exclusion in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; poverty, inequality, and violence in inner-city areas; immigration, refugee, and diversity initiatives.

#### *Cultural Identity and Place*

The interplay of history, ideology, mythology, and religion in shaping cultural identity explored critically through art, theater, film, literature, song, and storytelling.

#### *Northern Ireland Case Study*

During the three-week unit in Northern Ireland, students reexamine seminar themes in a post-conflict context. Students meet with academics, former combatants, politicians, and community activists, and visit rural and urban locations from Armagh to Belfast to Derry/Londonderry. They witness the legacy of violence through listening to individual stories and experience the challenges of truth recovery and of establishing "normal" politics in a divided society.

#### *Environmental Conflict Case Study*

A one-week stay in a remote coastal area of Mayo provides an opportunity to understand the ethos of a rural community currently threatened by the development of an oil refinery. The study focuses on challenges arising from opposing approaches to development and the efforts of local groups to mobilize opposition.

#### *Educational Excursions*

The program includes visits to the parliaments in Dublin and Belfast, community organizations, and sites of cultural significance in Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and in Wicklow, Armagh, Antrim, Donegal, and Galway counties. The program spends three weeks in Northern Ireland, five days in Mayo, and concludes with a three-day visit to the Aran Islands and Galway.



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Dublin

**Homestays** Dublin, 6–10 weeks; Derry, 1 week

**Other Accommodations** Peace and reconciliation centers, college dorms, and hostels

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** None. Coursework in and/or personal commitment to peace and conflict studies is strongly recommended.

### Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 6 credits / 180 class hours

Conducted in Dublin, Belfast, Derry, or another approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** urban regeneration in inner-city Dublin; truth recovery in Northern Ireland; the Corrib Gas dispute; the role of museums in memorializing the past.