Modern History

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Introduction

This is a one-year taught Masters programme, combining a range of seminars offered by members of staff and a 15,000 word dissertation. The course is designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of historical developments in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries without restricting themselves to a particular geographic or thematic specialisation.

Core Course: 'The Construction of Identity in Modern Europe'

The core course, 'The Construction of Identity in Modern Europe', is comparative and historiographical rather than chronological in emphasis. Readings and seminars will focus on the manner in which historians have approached the roles of class, nation, gender, religion, sexuality and mass consumption in the formation of contemporary European culture.
The case studies will be drawn from continental Europe, but the issues and debates are of equal relevance to British, American or Irish history. The course will provide students with theoretical and methodological frameworks applicable to the study of modern social, cultural and political history.

What will I study?

Students will take the core module (10 two-hour seminars, assessed by one student presentation and one 3000 word essay)., in addition to two research training modules.
A further two optional courses must also be accumulated over semesters one and two through the completion of modules in modern European, British, American, Irish or International history offered by the School or courses in the principal European languages offered by the School of Languages and Literature.

The principal focus of the programme is the 15,000 word dissertation, based on original research and due by the end of July. Students are free to research and write on any area of modern social, cultural or political history, but they must agree on a topic with the research supervisor who will be assigned to aid them in its preparation.