

Economics 6485
Economy of Ireland
Spring 2017
Instructors: David Boldt and Mary Kassis

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Course Description and Objectives: The course will give students a chance to gain a better understanding of the economics, business environment and culture of Ireland (Irish Republic and Northern Ireland). The course will require that students complete pre-trip readings and other assignments on the Irish economy. The visit to Ireland will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand about the Irish economy and business practices in Ireland. Upon return, students will complete a post-trip assignment. Our expectations is that upon completion of this study abroad program, students will be able demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economic and business concepts. Students will also be able to identify some global trends that are impacting Ireland's economy (MBA Learning Objectives 3.1 and 3.2). In addition, each student will make a professional presentation on an Irish-focused economic topic (MBA Learning Objective 1.2).

Required Meeting Dates:

- 1) Friday, January 20 (10:30am-12pm) in the Executive Dining Room (Z-6 Building). This will be a meeting for all students participating in the Ireland Study Abroad Program. Our guest speaker (Shane Stephens, Irish Consul General) will provide a brief overview of Ireland. Prior to his presentation, we will update you on any details concerning the trip. Lunch will be provided (sign-in at the front desk).
- 2) Friday, March 3 (11:00 am-12:30 pm) for a meeting to discuss final details of the trip.
- 3) Oral presentation on Irish economic topic. Make your presentation on either Friday, March 10 from 10 am-12 noon or on Monday, March 13, 7-9 pm. The presentations will be held in Room 1309 (Miller Hall). Email D. Boldt (dboldt@westga.edu) your presentation topic and the day you would prefer to make the presentation.
- 4) Trip to Ireland (March 17-25)

Module 1 Readings/Presentation (Economy and Overview of Ireland):

- 1) *Economy of Republic of Ireland*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Republic_of_Ireland
- 2) *The World Factbook-Ireland*, CIA, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)
- 3) *Ireland in Brief—A General Overview of Ireland's Political, Economic and Cultural Life*, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, January 2013.
https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/ourrolesandpolicies/about_ireland_ireland_in_brief.pdf
- 4) Presentation by Shane Stephens (Irish Consul General) on 1/20/16.

Module II Readings (Current Economic Issues in Ireland):

- 1) *How Ireland Pulled off an Economic Miracle that Rivals China, India*, *Financial Post*, May 18, 2016 (<http://business.financialpost.com/investing/global-investor/how-ireland-pulled-off-an-economic-miracle-that-rivals-china-india>)
- 2) *Brexit Repercussion: Ireland May Suffer the Most from Brexit*, *Economist*, October 27, 2016 (posted in CourseDen)
- 3) *The Brexit Wildcard? Ireland*, *Washington Post*, August 8, 2016 (posted in CourseDen)
- 4) *With Special Ties to Britain, Ireland Could Suffer Most from Brexit: UK Lawmakers Call for Separate Exit deal with Dublin, but other EU Countries Unlikely to Agree*, *Wall Street Journal*, December 12, 2016 (posted in CourseDen)
- 5) *Ireland Faces Major Disruptions if Trump Delivers on Economic Policies*, *Irish Times*, November 12, 2016 (posted on CourseDen).
- 6) *Ireland Doesn't Want Apple's Back taxes, but the Irish Aren't So Sure*, *New York Times*, September 11, 2016 (posted in CourseDen)
- 7) *Why Ireland Doesn't Want Apple's \$14.5 Billion in Back Taxes*, *Bloomberg* video, August 20, 2016 (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-08-30/why-ireland-doesn-t-want-apple-s-14-5-billion-in-back-taxes>)
- 8) *Irish Economic Forecast*, OECD, November 2016 <http://www.oecd.org/economy/ireland-economic-forecast-summary.htm>

Module III Readings/Videos (Belfast and Dublin):

- 1) *Economy of Dublin*, Article in Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Dublin
- 2) *Economy of Belfast*, Article in Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Belfast
- 3) *Belfast and the Best of Northern Ireland*, Rick Steves Video, <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/northern-ireland>
- 4) *Dublin and Mystical Side trips*, Rick Steves Video, <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/dublin>
- 5) Why Northern Ireland's Fragile Power Sharing is Under Threat, CNN, January 9, 2017
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/09/opinions/northern-ireland-peace-fears/>

Presentation: Each student in the class will make a powerpoint presentation on a topic related to the Irish economy. The topic must be approved by one of the instructors. The presentation should be about 10-15 minutes. Grading will be based on content, the presentation, and the quality of the slides. Include references also.

Grading:

- 1) 55 percent based on trip participation and post-trip assignment mainly based on the business visits and observation from your time spend in Ireland. Details about the post-trip assignment will be provided at a later date. The post trip paper assignment must be turned in by April 28.
- 2) 30 percent based on completion of three online modules (to be posted in CourseDen). To complete the modules, you will be required to answer questions based on the assigned readings. Module 1 on the Irish Economy must be completed by **Monday, February 6**. Module 2 on Current Economic Issues in Ireland must be completed by **Monday, February 20** and Module 3 on the Belfast and Dublin must be completed by **Monday, March 6**. Upon completion of each module, submit your typed responses to the questions in the assignment submission folder (formally known as "Dropbox"). Be sure to include your name and module number on the document you are submitting.
- 3) 15 percent based on your presentation (see above for details). These presentations will be on Friday, March 10, from 10-12 noon or on Monday, March 13, from 7-9 pm.

Note: Late assignments will result in a grade reduction

Attendance, Participation and Professionalism: Unless a specific exception is made, students are expected to participate in all on-campus and well as all the required components of the program on-campus as well as in Ireland. Students will be treated as professionals and are expected to act accordingly. This includes respecting your fellow students and our hosts in Ireland. On the trip, we expect that you will not put yourself in a situation which may cause problems for yourself, your classmates, our host, or for any of the instructors. Notice, that failure to attend a required business visit in a professional manner will result in up to a 10 point reduction in your participation grade in the course.

Common Language for Course Syllabi: Students, please carefully review the following information which contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. These statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change; you should review the information each semester.

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating on any assignment or exercise will result in a zero on the assignment or exercise, the lowering of the student's final grade in the course by one letter grade, and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Examples of cheating include turning in work that is not your own or having another student complete an assignment for you. Students not familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty should refer to the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog:

<http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm>