

THE IRISH ECONOMY

Boston University - Study Abroad, Dublin 2016

Dr Shaen Corbet

THE IRISH ECONOMY

Module Organisation Details

Lecturer	Dr Shaen Corbet
Contact	Office: Q245, DCU Business School Telephone: +353 87 067 1690 Email: shaen.corbet@dcu.ie
Office Hours	Please email to arrange a meeting
Prerequisites	EC101: Introductory Microeconomic Analysis EC102: Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis (or by permission of the instructor)

MODULE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS

The Irish economic experience has been historically characterised by turbulence, excitement, optimism and despair. While world-leading in some aspects of our economic development, we are also severely lacking in other vital areas. The financial crisis of 2007-2013, caused by a banking system and property price collapse, was particularly severe and starkly exposed those aspects of the economy that work and those that need major improvement.

Within this context this module will analyse the Irish economy. We examine the history of Irish economic development from a rural farming-based economy to a leading export-led services economy. We critically evaluate the role of government policy and regulation, taxation, spending, and welfare. We analyse the key drivers of economic success: international trade, international relations, demographics, and education; and the key factors driving underperformance: regulation and competitiveness. We also focus on social justice in Ireland from an economic perspective and attempts to implement economic policies effectively using modern data analytic and social and personal psychology levers.

By the end of the module, informed by case studies and a mixture of guest speakers and field trips, you will have an in-depth understanding of the Irish economic story. You will also gain insight into regional development, the European Union economic approach, and contrasts with the US economy.



The formal learning goals of the module are:

1. Evaluate the historic economic development of the Irish economy informed by statistical resources
2. Analyse and critique the characteristics of Ireland's current economic situation, including key strengths and deficits
3. Develop an understanding of Irish economic policy within an international context, particularly by reference to the wider European Union and the United States

TEACHING STRATEGY AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Module Assessment

Final Exam	Grade allocation: 30% Structure: Two hour exam. Answer two from a choice of five essay questions.
Group Project	Grade allocation: 30% Structure: Analyse an Irish economic policy using appropriate data and applied analysis
Written Responses to Class Discussions	Grade allocation: 20% Structure: Submit written responses to your choice of three from ten class discussion questions.
Class Participation	Grade allocation: 20% Structure: Actively participate in class discussions. Show evidence of prior reading. Contribute to the class understanding of topics.

You are expected to attend and actively contribute to classes. This involves showing evidence of reading in preparation for classes, and a willingness to offer your perspectives that will aid class understanding. A general principle is that vibrant on-going class discussion leads to a better learning environment. All course notes will be provided in advance of the class on the module intranet.

Group project: This comprises 30 percent of the module grade. The group project will involve self-selected groups of two students, analysing a selected feature of Irish economic policy. You will be expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the economic policy, drawing on official data sources to support your arguments, and showing an ability to apply theoretical research in a practical context. The format will be a 4,000 word report, and a 20 minute presentation where the notional target audience is public policymakers. Full details will be circulated in Week 3 of the course.

Written responses: This comprises 20 percent of the module grade. Each course topic will include a number of questions (1 to 2 usually) requiring wider reading on a subtopic. You are asked to select three of these questions and write 750 words analysing and evaluating each of the chosen topics.

Coursework deadlines need to be strictly adhered to, as you only have a limited amount of time in Dublin within which your contribution can be assessed. Late submission penalties of 1/3 of a letter grade per calendar day will be applied, although a strong preference will be for helping you in advance to avoid submitting late, and unforeseen internship and personal issues that delay your ability to submit will be considered where appropriate and where these have been flagged in advance.

Please note that the Boston University Academic Conduct Code applies to this module. A reminder of the Code:

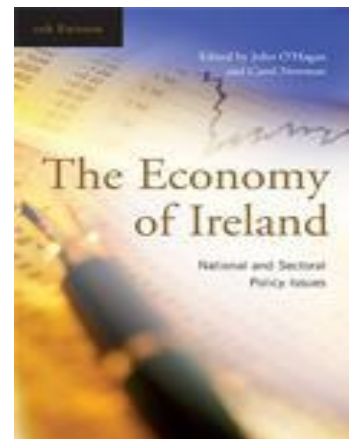
"It is every student's responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean." You can view the entire Academic Conduct Code here: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>"

MODULE READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

O'Hagan, J. and C. Newman. 2014. *The Economy of Ireland*. 12th Edition. Gill & Macmillan

This is the bestselling textbook on the Irish economy. It consists of contributed chapters from academic leaders in Irish economic analysis and provides an excellent level of detail while also being written in an accessible manner. The module will closely follow this core text.



ADDITIONAL USEFUL READINGS

- Barry, F. 2007. "Foreign Direct Investment and Institutional Co-evolution in Ireland" *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 55(3), pp 262-288
- Brick, A., Nolan, A., O'Reilly, J., & Smith, S. 2013. Conflicting financial incentives in the Irish health-care system. *The Economic and Social Review*, 43(2, Summer), 273-301.
- Fitzgerald, J. 2013. "Two Recessions and a Boom: Where Next for Ireland?" in W. Huber, S. Mayer & J. Novak (eds.), *Irish Studies in Europe, Vol 4, Ireland in/and Europe: Cross-Currents and Exchanges*, pp. 173-188
- Gramlich, E. 2001. "Infrastructure and Economic Development" Texas Trade Corridors New Economy Conference, San Antonio available at:
- <http://federalreserve.gov/boarddocs/speeches/2001/20010803/default.htm>
- Harmon, C., H. Oosterbeek, I. Walker. 2003. "The Returns to Education: Microeconomics" *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 17(2), pp. 115-156.
- Inglehart, R., R. Foa, C. Peterson, and C. Welzel. 2008. "Development, Freedom, and Rising Happiness A Global Perspective (1981-2007)" *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 3(4), pp 264-285.
- Kaitila, V., J. McQuinn, I. Siedschlag, X. Zhang. 2013. "International Investment and Firm Performance: Empirical Evidence from Small Open Economies", ETLA Reports No. 6 available at: http://esri.ie/publications/latest_publications/view/index.xml?id=3714

- Lane, P. 2010. "A New Fiscal Framework for Ireland" Journal of Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, 39.
- Lewis, M. 2012. *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World* W.W. Norton & Company
- Lucey, B., C. Larkin, and C. Gurdgiev. 2012. *What if Ireland Defaults?* Open Press
- Rodrik, D. 2000. "How Far Will International Economic Integration Go?" Journal of Economic Perspectives, 14(1), 177-186.
- Walsh, B. 2011. "Well-Being and Economic Conditions in Ireland" Working Paper, available at: http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/WP11_27.pdf

Reports:

Accenture "Sustaining High Performance in Shared Services: An Irish Perspective", Dublin 2010

Department of Finance "Programme for Recovery 2011-2014", Dublin 2010

National Competitiveness Council "Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge 2014", Dublin 2014.

Blogs:

www.IrishEconomy.ie

www.TrueEconomics.blogspot.com

WEEK-BY-WEEK CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Description
Wk 1: 21/1/16	Student Orientation: 12.00 – 1.00pm, The Helix, DCU
Wk 2: 26/1/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 1:</u> Introduction to the Irish Economy (CHAP 1&7)
Wk 3: 2/2/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 2:</u> Tigers and PIIGS – An overview of the rise of the Celtic Tiger and how Ireland became one of the PIIGS
Wk 4: 9/2/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 3:</u> Tigers and PIIGS debate – student interaction and opinion regarding the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger – we will be examining the data behind the collapse – the red flags ignored and the lessons learned
Wk 5: 16/2/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 4:</u> Irish government policy and the economy (CHAP 2&3)
Wk 6: 23/2/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 5:</u> Regulation and Competition (Examination of Ryanair and CHAP 5)
Wk 7: 1/3/16 5.00-8.00pm CG02	<u>Class 6:</u> Education and health economics (CHAP 12&13)
Wk 8	Reading week – No class
Wk 9: 18/3/16 10.00-1.00pm CG02	<u>Class 7:</u> Ireland's energy economy – a missed opportunity or the driver of an economic recovery?
Wk 10: 23/3/16 7.00-10.00pm CG02	<u>Class 8:</u> Key economic sectors and the influence of Foreign Direct Investment (CHAP 9&10)
Wk 11: 1/4/16 10.00-1.00pm CG02	<u>Class 9:</u> The road to recovery – An overview of the National Recovery Plan
Wk 12: 8/4/16 10.00-1.00pm CG02	<u>Class 10:</u> - Provisional date for the class field-trip . The deadline for the individual written responses (worth 20% of overall grade) is the 9 th of April at 5pm
Wk 13: 15/4/16 10.00-1.00pm CG02	<u>Class 11:</u> Presentation of Group Projects – The deadline for Group Project submission (worth 30% of overall grade) is the 16 th of April at 5pm
Wk 14: 20/4/16 7.00-10.00pm CG02	<u>Class 12:</u> Drop in class for revision and performance feedback
Wk 14: 22/4/16 11.00-1.00pm HG10	Final Examination: 2 hours in duration (worth 30% of overall grade)

{Please note that the above schedule is indicative and is subject to change based on the confirmation of the class field trip. The reading list will be provided in class 1&2 in addition to the chapters listed above.}

Dr. Shaen Corbet (January 11th 2016)