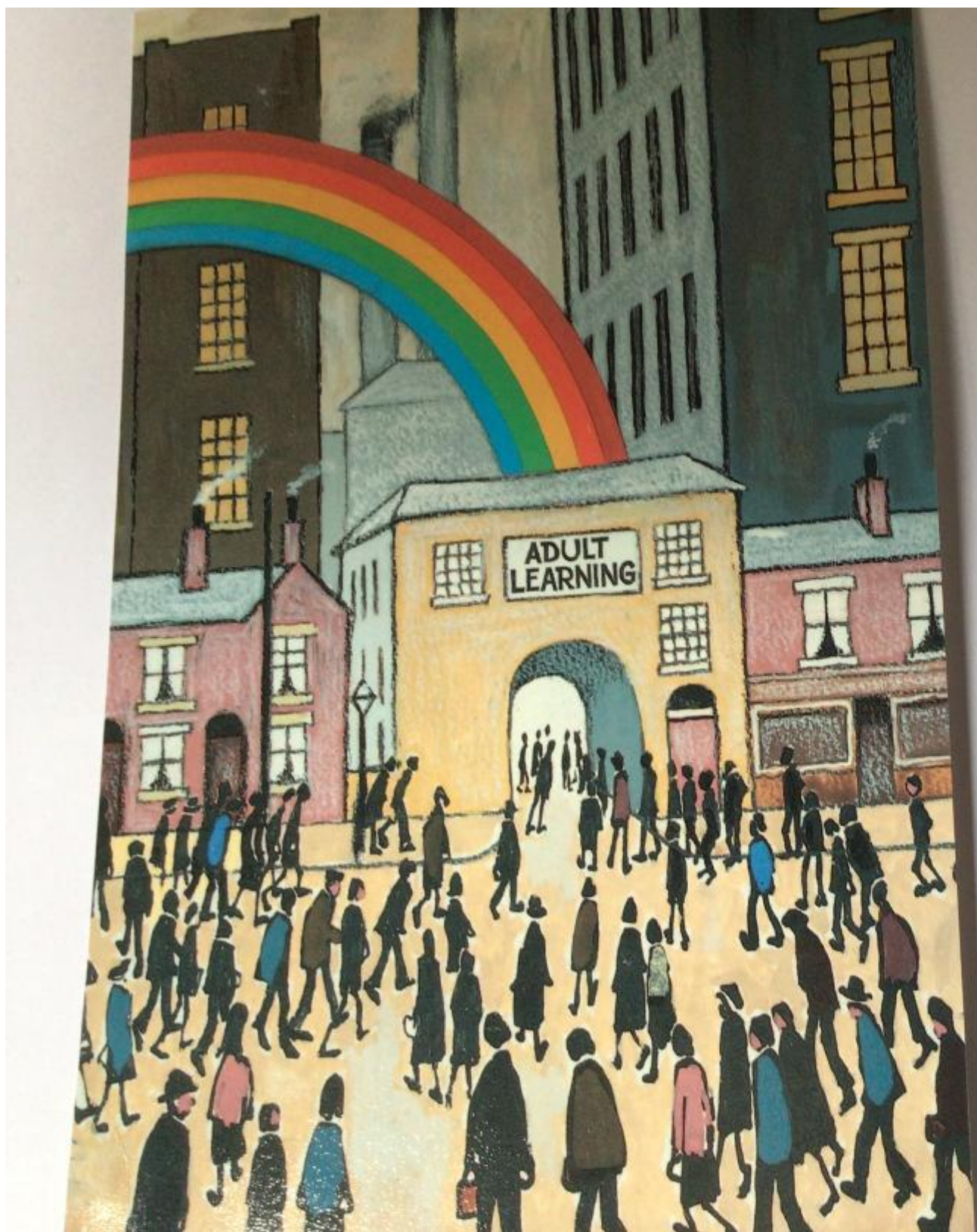


Saor-Ollscoil na hÉireann – Free University of Ireland



Saor-Ollscoil na hÉireann (Free University of Ireland) provides third level education to mature students (over 20 years of age) in the area of the humanities and social sciences, and makes awards in the Liberal Arts at BA, MA and PhD levels..

Open entry - no Leaving Cert. points required to register.

No exams - the degrees are awarded on the basis of course work and a thesis completed at the students pace.

Teaching/Learning takes place over 20 weeks : Oct –Dec and Jan-March via Zoom with online seminars in the Summer Term and the possibility of face-to-face meetings each term.



Courses for 2026/2027 Academic Year

Philosophy East/West with Prof Terry Hyland – hylandterry@gmail.com

An exploration of key philosophical ideas in ethics, knowledge, science, religion and spirituality in terms of overlapping themes in Western traditions (from Ancient Greece to modern philosophy) and Eastern perspectives through the Buddhist origins of mindfulness theory and practice

Psychology with Delia Gaffney –Delia.Gaffney@gmail.com

An introduction to Psychology which traces its history from pre-Christian times to the present day. Placing emphasis on the Glaserian/Choice Theory aspects of the discipline which foreground the study of the particular behavioural traits and principles which are required for maintaining internal control of human lives whilst retaining personal choice and freedom.

General Social Science with Dr Arthur Firkins –afirkins@yahoo.com

General social science is a broad field that studies human behaviour and social relationships in diverse contexts. It encompasses a wide range of disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, and political science. These disciplines collectively explore how individuals and groups interact, how cultures develop, and how societies function over time.

At its core general social science seeks to understand the complexities of human life by examining norms, values and institutions that shape our experiences. Its multi-disciplinary approach allows us to address pressing issues such as poverty, inequality, social justice, and the environmental challenges which face local and global communities.

James Joyce – Ulysses with Aine Ninuallain - aineninuallain@gmail.com

This year we will be reading James Joyce's Ulysses. Hitherto the approach has been to study one of the eighteen episodes each week spreading the longest episode over two weeks. Students read the episode in advance and we discussed it on the night.

Alternatively this course can be delivered over a two year period and more time can be spent on each episode. My own preference would be to do more justice to the complexity of each episode in this way but I will leave it to students to indicate what their own preference is.

Modern Irish History with Pdraig Mannion – diskmann2@gmail.com

Modern Irish History, 1600 – 2011, is delivered over a four year cycle. This academic year, 2026/2027, we will deal with Ireland from 1945 to 2011. In short from the end of WWII to the death of the Celtic Tiger.

This year's course covers the political, economic, social and cultural history of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland over this almost 70 year period. In the South there was the massive depression of the 1950s, the change of economic thinking in the 1960s, the impact of the EEC / EU from 1973 onwards and the impact of global change on the economy. Politically there were periods of change with four changes of government from 1948 to 1957 followed by sixteen years of uninterrupted Fianna Fáil government. There was the radicalism of the 1960s as demonstrated in housing agitations, fish-ins, ground rent withholding, and the development of Gaeltacht activism. The Irish Women's Liberation Movement was founded, women's studies courses developed, trade union studies developed.

In the North the Welfare State of the Atlee government was imported, the decline of the traditional industries of ship building and linen, the radicalism of the 1960s which led to the development of many campaigns but specifically of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. A three year era of peaceful protest and many victories was then followed by the

30-year Troubles and 3,000 deaths. There was Thatcherism, Blairism, Brexit, Boris and 28 years post the Good Friday Agreement.

****Courses start week beginning October 5, 2026 – Enrol at any time by contacting the tutor email addresses for any courses selected**

Fees are 200 euros for the whole year payable via bank transfer:

A/C Name - Saor -Ollscoil na hEireann

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ALL WELCOME – NO QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN OCTOBER

