General Studies Department: Lehman College.
The Irish-American Experience: from the Tain to the United States.

Course #: LEH 301, 2851, Spring 2007
Class times: Mondays 6:00 – 8:40 PM
Location: Reservoir Building, Room 134
Professor: Denis Murphy
e-mail: omurchadha@juno.com

Course Description:
This course focuses on the ethnic background of the Irish who came to the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It explores the Celtic past through the heroic age of An Tain Bo Cuailnge, the Golden age of saints and scholars, invasions, attempted conquest and colonization, the Penal Laws, Catholic Emancipation, The Great Famine, The Gaelic Revival, independence and the new state. From there the course follows the path of the Irish in the “new world” as the cities and farm land of the United States provide new beginnings to grow and prosper.

Learning Aims:

1) to learn about the history of the people who emigrated from Ireland to the New World.
2) to learn characteristics of the culture of Ireland.
3) to learn the history of the Irish as they began to populate the cities of the United States.
4) to learn the history of a sample of Irish people who populated the United States outside the urban areas.
5) To apply the MLA style of writing in all papers.

Attendance: attendance at class is required in order to successfully complete the course. There is a penalty for undocumented non-attendance.

Grading:

1) Class attendance and participation: 30%
2) Projects and written assignments: 40%
3) Final Exam 30%
## The Irish in Ireland.
### Written Assignments and Presentations: #1

Write a review of one of the following sites. Prepare them for class distribution. Write one page minimum. Write a heading, the web site address and review of its content. Include a cover page. If the content is too short research and report on another relevant site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Website URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Government of Ireland website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.irlgov.ie">www.irlgov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Irish America West project</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wiisonline.org/IAW">www.wiisonline.org/IAW</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>National Archives of Ireland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nationalarchives.ie">www.nationalarchives.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>British Library</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bl.uk">www.bl.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Royal Irish Academy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ria.ie">www.ria.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>RASCAL</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rascal.ac.uk/">www.rascal.ac.uk/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Linen Hall Library</td>
<td><a href="http://www.linenhall.com">www.linenhall.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Chester Beatty Library</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cbl.ie">www.cbl.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Christ church cathedral Archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cccdub.ie">www.cccdub.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Irish Architectural Archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iarc.ie">www.iarc.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Irish Film archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fii.ie.archive/">www.fii.ie.archive/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>The Irish Manuscripts Commission</td>
<td><a href="http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/">www.irishmanuscripts.ie/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Irish Traditional Music Archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.itma.ie/">www.itma.ie/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Marsh’s Library, Dublin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marshlibrary.ie/">www.marshlibrary.ie/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Trinity College Library, Dublin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcd.ie/Library/">www.tcd.ie/Library/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>James Hardiman Library, UCG</td>
<td><a href="http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/">www.library.nuigalway.ie/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Economic and Social History of Ireland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eh.net/eshi/index.html">www.eh.net/eshi/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Themes in Irish History:

1) Identity- How did this person/event contribute to the Irish identity and what is it?

2) Invasions-how did these change Irish identity?

3) What is the culture and what survived?

1) How did Ireland relate to England and the rest of the world?

2) How is Ireland coping with economic success?
Written assignment and Presentation #2

Research one of the following or an event from the time chart on Irish History/Culture. Write your sources as citations and in a Bibliography. Write a minimum of four pages and include a cover page. Present in class. Use 12 font regular spacing and Times New Roman.

Due date: please see calendar.

People:
Surnames

Places:
Tara, Cruahan, Cashel, Armagh, Dublin Castle/castles, The Pale,

Religion
Druids
Saint Patrick
The Monasteries/confiscations
Catherine Elizabeth McAuley
Edmund Ignatius Rice

Politics
Brian Boru
Diarmaid Mac Murrough
Grainne Uaile/Grace O’Malley

O’Sullivan Bere (1560-1618)
The O’Neills
The O’Donnells
Henry Grattan
Wolfe Tone
Robert Emmet
Issac Butt
Daniel O’Connell
Charles Gavan Duffy
Charles Stewart Parnell
James Connolly
Grace Gifford Plunkett
Maude Gonne
Countess Markievicz
Michael Collins
Eamon DeValera
Sean MacBride
Sean Lemass
Bernadette Devlin McAliskey
Charles Haughey
Garret FitzGerald
Mairead Farrell
Albert Reynolds / John Major / John Hume / George Mitchell
Mary Robinson
Bertie Ahern
Mary McAleese

**Literature**
The Book of Kells
Austin Clarke
Brendan Behan
Maeve Binchy
Jonathan Swift
Oliver Goldsmith
Lady Augusta Gregory
Douglas Hyde
Oscar Wilde
John Millington Synge
WB Yeats
Sean O’Casey
George Bernard Shaw
Thomas Moore
Padraig Pearse
Flann O’Brien
James Joyce
Patrick Kavanagh
Frank O’Connor
Samuel Becket
Seamus Heaney
Edna O’Brien

**Music and dance, Ireland**

O’ Carolan
Sets, ceilis, step-dancing
Thin Lizzy
Sean Nos
The Cranberries
U2
Bob Geldof
Movies and People.
Man of Aran
The Lady from Shanghai
The Quiet Man
Colin Farrell
Darby O’Gill and the Little People
Far and Away.
Cal
Far and Away
The Devil’s Own
The Secret of Roan Inish (102 mins.)
One Man’s Hero
Million Dollar Baby
Maureen O’Hara

General Interest
Annie Moore
Bob Geldof
Ann Goody Glover

Newspapers in Ireland
Beo
Irish independent
Irish Times
Sunday Tribune
Sunday Business Post
Also, for historical papers see archives web site
The Irish in America.

Written assignment and Presentation #3
Conduct an interview with a person who is 60 plus. The following questions should be addressed: see appendix.

Due date: please see calendar.

Written assignment and Presentation #4

4) Research one of the following subjects or events from the time chart on Irish-American History/Culture. Write your sources as citations and in a Bibliography. Write a minimum of four pages and include a cover page. Present in class.

Due date: please see calendar.

Themes in Irish-American History

1) What did it mean to be the “first” minority group?

2) Why did Catholicism become such a strong symbol for Irish people in the United States?

3) Why did the political machines thrive when today we would regard them as corrupt?

4) Was equality achieved?

5) What did success mean?

6) Why was there a strong sense of no return and such a bond for home?

7) What role did the Northern Ireland conflict play (Mac Bride Principles)?

8) How did and do the Irish relate to other races?

9) What has political and economic success meant?
US People

Business
Alexander Brown (1764-1834)
Michael Cudahy (1841-1910)
Henry Ford (1863-1947)
William Russell Grace (1832-1904)
William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951)
Howard R. Hughes (1863-1951)
Anthony O’Reilly Former CEO of Heinz Corporation
Charles Feeney Former Billionaire
Donald Keough Former CEO of Coca Cola

Education
John R. Gregg (1867-1948)
William H. McGuffey (1800-1873)

Journalism
Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965)
Jimmy Breslin (1929-)
William F. Buckley (1925-)

Labour Leaders
Peter James McGuire (1852-1906)
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn (1890-1964)
George Meany (1894-1980)

Literature
Eugene O’Neill (1888-1953)
Francis Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)
Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949)
John O’Hara (1905-1970)
Michael Joseph Quill (1905-1966)
Flannery O’Connor (1925-1964)
Cornelius Ryan
Higgins Clark Mary

Military
John Barry (1745-1803)
Patrick R. Cleburne (1828-1864)
William J. Donovan (1883-1959)
Alfred Thayer Mahan (1840-1914)
Audie Murphy (1924-1971)
Philip H. Sheridan (1831-1888)
John Sullivan (1740-1795)
Politics/Public Service
Charles Carroll (1737-1832)
Richard Joseph Daley (1902-1976)
Sir Thomas Dongan (1634-1715)
Raymond Kelly
John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)
Robert Francis Kennedy (1925-1968)
Edward More Kennedy (1932- )
Eugene McCarthy (1916- )
Joseph Raymond McCarthy (1908-1957)
Mary Holt Moore
Daniel P. Moynihan (1927- )
Sandra Day O’Connor (1930- )
Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (1912- 19 )
Alfred Emmanuel Smith (1873-1944)

Religion
John Carroll (1735-1825)
John Joseph Hughes (1797-1864)
Francis Makemie (1658-1708)
John McCloskey (1810-1885)
John Joseph O’Connor (1920- )
Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979)
Francis Spellman (1889-1967)
Cardinal O’Connor

Sports
Charles Albert Comiskey
James Connors
James (Gentleman Jim) Corbett (1866-1933)
William H. (Jack) Dempsey
Newspapers in the United States
American Celt (New York)
Boston Advertiser
Commercial Advertiser (New York)
Daily Tribune (New York)
Evening Post (New York)
Herald (New York)
Irish American (New York)
Irish Echo (New York)
Irish Times (New York)
Irish Voice (New York)
Irish Vindicator (New York)
Morning Telegraph (New York)
Post (New York)
Sun (New York)

Periodicals/Journals/Magazines
Irish Miscellany (New York)
Irish America Magazine
Post Office Directories (New York)
Tablet (New York)
Thom’s Directories (New York)
The Truth Teller (New York)
Appendix 1

Schedule of classes: Monday nights except February 21st., 2005

January    30.       Introduction / The Tain Pages 53-100

February  06.       History and literature / Presentations. #1 on web sites
Work on #2 The Tain pgs 100-156 and #3 The Interview

February  21.      The Tain Pages 200-205 / History and literature / Presentations #2

February  27.      The Tain Pages 205-235 / Presentations #2

Tuesday

March 06.            The Tain / Indentured Servants

March 13.            History / Poetry / Presentation #3

March 20             History / The Confirmation Suit / Presentation #3

March 27.            Introduction to Irish-America / Long Journey home / Begin #4
Presentation / The Irish-America West Project, Kansas

April 03.              History / The Lusk Map / Long Journey Home/ Presentations #4

April 10               History / Presentation #4

April 24               History / The Connemara Irish in Minnesota

May 01                History / The Irish-America West Project, Kansas Presentations
#5

May 08.               History / The Irish-America West Project, Kansas Presentations
#5

May 15.               Last day of class.

May 22.               Final Exam.
Appendix 2

Bibliography

Driscoll Charles  Kansas Irish  Online/IAWP.
Donovan Josephine  Black Soil  Boston, Massachusetts: The Alpine Press, 1930 Online/IAWP
Forster R.F.  The Oxford History of Ireland  Oxford OUP 1992
Hayes Charles Edward  The Four Winds  Online/AIWP
Ignatiev Noel  How the Irish Became White  New York: Routledge, 1995
Kinsella Thomas  The Tain  Oxford: OUP, 2002
Kyne Peter B.  Tide of Empire  Online/IAWP
Llywelyn Morgan  Red Branch  New York: Ballantine, 1989
Norris Kathleen  My California  Online/IAWP
Norris Kathleen  My San Francisco  Online/IAWP
Quigley Hugh  The Irish Race in California, and on the Pacific Coast  San Francisco, California: A. Roman and Company, 1878 Online/IAWP
Quin Peter  Banished Children of Eve (Draft Riots)  New York: Viking 1994
Stewart Ramona  Casey  Boston: Little, Brown, 1968
Appendix 3

Irish-America: Time Line


1790 First Federal census: 44,000 Irish born people
                  150,000 ex 3 million claim ancestry
                  35,000 Catholics

1800’s (early) First Catholic Church in Boston. Worked as artisans.
As cities expand, worked as labourers.
Av. wake foe a 15 hour day: 50 cents.
Some left the Atlantic seaboard for the railroad lines.

1817 Erie Canal: Irish labourers.

1845- Famine in Ireland: 1.5 million die (20% of pop.) from typhus, cholera,
1851 dysentery and starvation. 30% emigrated by 1855: 2.5 million.
Coffin ships: 6-12 week trips on unregulated ships, c. 250,000 die en route. 1827 37,000 arrive in Boston. Saloons become the new meeting point for a rural people. Labourers. “No Irish Need Apply.”
Racial profiling: Irish poverty and illiteracy were due to themselves
Fear of loyalty to the pope.
In New York, 30 to 40 ships per day. Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank.

1855 The Native American Party or Know Nothings: new Penal Laws.
176,000 immigrants from Ireland in NYC; I/5 of voters.

1840’s- Catholic Church transformed: parochial education system.
1850’s

1861- 200,000 Irish immigrants fought in the Civil War. The fighting ‘69th..

1865 Conflict over slavery and jobs. Draft riots.
1868  NYC-Tammany Hall/Democratic Party political machine: naturalization, police, firemen, gas workers etc.

1877  Ten Molly Maguires were hung in Pennsylvania.

1880  Six million Irish Catholics/ 1840 four million.

1880’s  Knights of Labour: Irish join in thousands. Rise of a middle class.


1890  US Census: 1,872,000 Irish born; 2% in agriculture; New York, Boston (majority), Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco. Chain immigration.

1891  Ellis Island opens, first immigrant was Annie Moore.

1900’s (early) Irish: 35% white collar, 50% skilled, 15% unskilled. Making progress.


1918

1920-  Irish immigration dwindled as Congress legislates with the 1965 Immigration Act.

1960  John Fitzgerald elected president.

1928  Al Smith defeated by Republican Hoover but carries all 12 cities for the first time.


1960’s-  Irish become part of the melting pot or salad bowl, 7 million emigrated. Forty million claim ancestry.
Appendix 4

Interview Question guidelines:
1. Be courteous, respectful and sensitive.
2. Speak English and have a NY address
3. Provide address and telephone number
4. Be over 60
5 Use your initiative to ‘run’ with a question.

Paper:
Standard 12 font, times new Roman, double-spaced, cover page. It is expected that your paper will be 3-5 pages in length. Add anecdotal questions, what food did you like/dislike most etc.? Marriage, children …?

Questions:
1. When did you first come to the US?
2. Why did you come?
3. How did you feel leaving your family or did they come before you or after you or were you alone?
4. How did you travel here?
5. What were your ideas of the US before you came?
6. What was your first experience here?
7. Where did you settle?
8. Why?
9. How did you feel when you were here for the first year?
10. How did you adjust to the culture?
11. Were people friendly?
12. What changes did you see over the time you have been here?
13. How did you make a living?
14. Did you change your diet?
15. Did you change you dress?
16. Did you make the right decision coming here?
17. Would you recommend the US to others?
18. What was your happiest memory?
19. What was your saddest memory?
20. Did you apply for citizenship if you qualified? Why?
21. Would you go through the whole experience again?
Appendix 5

Reading Assignment: Irish-America.

Written assignment and Presentation #5

Write a review of your reading circle book. You can plan and work both in class and at home. Write a three page paper following the standard 12 font, Times New Roman, cover page format. Include the following:

Emotional response:
  1. Did you like the book or not? Would you recommend it? Why? Why not?

Academic writing:
  1. Genre.
  2. Plot
  3. Point of view.
  2. Characterization
  3. Themes.

Due date: #5