



HS 377 – FROM BOSTON TO BUENOS AIRES: SEARCHING FOR IRELAND ABROAD IN THE AMERICAS

IES Abroad Dublin

DESCRIPTION:

Since 1700, approximately ten million people have emigrated from Ireland, an island the size of West Virginia. The destinations have included Australia, Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Caribbean. Popular culture and history have tended to concentrate on Famine and post-Famine emigration to the United States and to a lesser extent, Canada. Consequently, cities such as Boston, New York and Chicago have received major attention from historians. On the other hand, key groups such as the Ulster Presbyterians (Ulster Scots/ Scots Irish), who emigrated in significant numbers during the eighteenth century are neglected. Similarly, emigration to south America and the Caribbean has not featured prominently in the literature or popular culture. This course will correct these deficits by focusing on the *Americas*. As such, Argentina, Monserat and Newfoundland will feature prominently. When discussing the United States, the course will focus primarily on Ulster Presbyterian emigration to the Appalachians. More prosaically, emigration to the United States is explored, but through the lens of Eamon de Valera's 1919/20 political tour of the United States AND President Kennedy's visit to Ireland in 1963.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Students should be familiar with a seminar-style learning environment

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Seminars, screenings and field trips

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Group Presentation - 20%
- Critical Review of Book Chapter - 30%
- Final Research Paper - 40%
- Class Contribution and Participation in Discussions - 10%

Group Presentation

In groups of three-four, with topics confirmed by the end of Week 1, students will select a topic related to a distinct aspect of Irish emigration, researching in detail and sharing findings with the class. Instructor will facilitate preparatory checkpoint meetings. Students will then present their findings on-site during the Week 3 course-related trip to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum.

Critical Review of Book Chapter

The student's book chapter of choice will be discussed with the instructor with recommendations made by Week 5, and the 2,200-word review is due by Week 7.

Final Research Paper

The topic of each student's final research paper will be discussed with instructor and recommendations made by Week 8. A one-to-one progress check-in with the instructor and student will occur in Week 10, with the final 3,000-word research paper due Week 12.

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Class Contribution and Participation in Discussions

Students are expected to complete readings in advance of class in order to participate successfully in debate and discussion. The instructor will calculate each student's cumulative class contribution and participation in the final week of class.

Assessment of research papers, critical reviews and group presentations will be based upon:

- **Structure:** presents a coherent argument that addresses the question from start to finish; structure is clear and organised; writing is clear and error-free
- **Content:** offers evidence of relevant reading, research and referencing; demonstrates a capacity to apply learning to situations
- **Evidence of Critical Thought:** demonstrates a capacity to critically evaluate arguments and theories; can offer a well-presented counterargument
- **Creativity:** makes an original contribution to the topic; presents material in an interesting and unique way that is particularly useful to the reader or audience

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the causes and patterns of Irish emigration to the Americas from the 1490s to the 1960s, particularly within the regions of the Appalachians, Newfoundland, Boston, Argentina, and Monserrat.
- Identify key individuals and episodes of particular significance from Ireland's emigration history
- Assess the consequences of emigration from Ireland on both the 'old country' and 'new lands'; in particular, assess the cultural, societal and political implications for the destination country, especially in the case of the United States
- Examine the complexities of Irish culture and identity at key points in the Modern Era, notably, along lines of class, ethnicity, religious beliefs, political allegiance and national identity
- Recognize the consequences and implications of human migration and apply these understandings to future learning opportunities and related topics both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and beyond

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance is mandatory. The IES Abroad Dublin Centre Attendance Policy will apply in all instances.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1	• Irish Emigration: A Global Perspective This section introduces the topic of Irish emigration across different periods and to multiple destinations. It commences in the late fifteenth century and concludes with the mid- twentieth century. Destinations touched upon include the United States, Canada, Britain and New Zealand.	• Kenny, K. (2017) 'Irish Emigrations in a Comparative Perspective'. In: Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E., eds. <i>The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.405-422 (18) • Bronwen, W. (2017) 'The Diaspora in a Comparative and Multi-Generational Perspective'. In Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E., eds. <i>The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.423-438 (16) Group presentation topic due

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 2	Irish Emigration: The Americas This section zooms in on Irish emigration to the Americas from the sixteenth to the mid twentieth century. It includes destinations such as the United States, Canada, Brazil and Mexico. Themes such as social class, marital status and gender are employed to make sense of this section.	- King, J. (2008) 'Ireland and Canada'. In: Byrne, J.P. Coleman, P. and King J. eds. <i>Ireland and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia</i>, Volume 1. Santa Barbara, Denver and Oxford: ABC Clio, pp. 5-13 (9) - Meagher, T. (2017) 'Irish America'. In: Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E. eds. <i>The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.497-514 (18) - O' Reilly, William (2020) 'Ireland in the Atlantic World: Migration and Cultural Transfer'. In: Ohlmeyer J. ed. <i>The Cambridge History of Ireland, Volume II 1550-1730</i>, pp.385-408 (24)
Week 3	Field Trip to Irish Emigration Museum (EPIC), Custom House, Quay, North Wall, Dublin Pedagogically, this section flows logically from topic two. The field trip provides a deeply interactive and visual synopsis of Ireland's emigration experience.	O' Reilly, William (2020) 'Ireland in the Atlantic World: Migration and Cultural Transfer'. In: Ohlmeyer J. ed. <i>The Cambridge History of Ireland, Volume II 1550-1730</i>, pp.385-408 (24) Group presentations due
Week 4	The Ulster Scots and the Appalachians: Motives for Migrating, Social, Religious and Ethnic Origins This section concentrates on the origins and consequences of Ulster Scots (Presbyterians) migration to the Appalachians. This migrant group is synonymous with the Jacobite plantation of Ulster during the first decade of the seventeenth century. The section adopts a thematic approach. Motives for migrating will be one of the key themes examined.	Hackett Fisher, D. (1991) <i>Albions Seed: Four British Folkways in America</i>. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.605-693 (88)

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 5	The Ulster Scots and the Appalachians: Elite Origins, Place Names, Marriage Ways and Gender Ways This section continues the thematic examination Ulster Scots migration to the Appalachian. For example, it will explore the impact of Ulster Scots migration on place names in the Appalachians.	Hackett Fisher, D. (1991) <i>Albions Seed: Four British Folkways in America</i>. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.693-782 (89) Topic of book chapter review due
Week 6	Newfoundland and the Irish: A Glimpse of Community Life in 1981 This section concentrates on Irish emigration to Newfoundland which commenced in the seventeenth century. It profiles the social, economic and religious lives of Newfoundlanders of Irish origin in 1981. This profile will be understood primarily through the lens Irish television documentarians.	- McGreevey, R. (2023) 'Newfoundland communities are 'most Irish' outside Ireland', genetic study finds, <i>Irish Times</i>, 15 May. Available at: https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2023/05/15/newfoundland-communities-are-most-irish-outside-ireland-genetic-study-finds/. [Accessed 6th June, 2024]. - RTE (1981). The Forgotten Irish in Newfoundland. Available at: https://www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/1378-radharc/355628-the-forgotten-irish/ (47 minutes) - The Mannion Collection (2024) Irish Migration and Settlement in Newfoundland 1750-1850. The Mannion Collection Digitalising the records of Dr. John Mannion Available At: https://www.mannioncollection.ca/default.aspx [Accessed 6th May, 2024].
Week 7	The Caribbean Irish: Irish Migration to Monserrat This section explores Irish emigration to the Caribbean Island of Monseratt during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It will include an examination of Montserratians of Irish origin who became slaveholders. The theme of colonialism will be strongly highlighted in this section. The section will be situated in the broader context of the colonisation of the West Indies.	- Taylor, A. (2002) <i>American Colonies: The Settlement of North America</i>, New York: Penguin Books, pp.204-221 (18) - RTÉ (2013), Sugar and the Blue-Eyed Slaves. Available at: https://www.rte.ie/radio/doconone/647482-documentary-sugar-blue-eyed-slave-montserrat-slaves (37 minutes) Critical review of book chapter due

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 8	Argentina and the Irish: Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Migration Ireland opened its Argentinian embassy in Buenos Aires in 1948. This is suggestive of a strong long-term relationship between the two countries. Tracing Irish emigration to Argentina to its nineteenth century origins, this section examines the motives and social origins of these early emigrants to south America.	- Murray, E. (2008) 'Ireland and Latin America' in Byrne, J.P. Coleman, P. and King J. eds. <i>Ireland and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia</i>, Volume 1. Santa Barbara, Denver and Oxford: ABC Clio, pp. 15-26 (12) - Murray, E. (2008) Argentina in Byrne, J.P. Coleman, P. and King J. eds. <i>Ireland and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia</i>, Volume 1. Santa Barbara, Denver and Oxford: ABC Clio, pp. 66-69 (4) - RTE (2004) <i>The Argentina Connection</i>. Available at: https://www.rte.ie/radio/doconone/646156-argentinias (41 minutes) Topic of final research paper due
Week 9	'The Returned Yank': Irish as Identity This section explores Irish American identity through the prism of the 1990 movie titled <i>The Field</i>. The section will zoom in on the character Peter, a returning Irish American who sets out to purchase a field against the wishes of its long-term tenant Bull McCabe. This section asks whether Peter's character is heavily caricatured.	Viewing and critical analysis of Jim Sheridan's <i>The Field</i> (1990), a film adaptation of the play of the same name by John. B. Keane (107 minutes)
Week 10	A Political Nation Abroad: De Valera's Tour of America 1919-1920 This section explores Ireland abroad as a political community in the United States during the early twentieth century. It focuses on the extensive political tour of the United States undertaken by Sinn Fein leader Eamon De Valera during 1919-1920.	McCullogh, D. (2017) <i>De Valera: Rise 1882-1932</i>. Dublin: Gill Books, pp.162-188 (27) Check-in for final research papers

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 11	The Kennedys of Massachusetts Return Home: JFK's 1963 Visit to Ireland President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's four-day trip to Ireland during June of 1963 tended to be afforded a revered place in Ireland's public memory. His assassination a few months later in Dallas, Texas added an extra layer of deep sentimentality to this trip. This section explores the contemporary coverage of Kennedy's trip whilst simultaneously avoiding excessive sentimentality.	Dalleck, R. (2004) <i>John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Business</i>. London: Penguin, pp. 3-69 (67)
Week 12	Field Trip to Dunbrody, County Wexford: Tour of Kennedy Homestead and Dunbrody Famine Ship Pedagogically, this tour follows logically from topic eleven. Kennedy's trip to his ancestral homestead in Dunbrody, County Wexford was nostalgically the highlight of his 1963 tour. A totally relaxed, Kennedy was memorably and evocatively televised chatting with his relatives over a cup of tea in the farmyard. The 35th President of the United States did indeed look like the returning emigrant.	Tubridy, R. (2010) <i>JFK in Ireland: Four days that Changed a President</i>. Dublin: Collins Press, pp. 14-60 (36), pp. 136-148 (13) Final research papers due

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Field Trip to Irish Emigration Museum (EPIC)
- Tour of Kennedy Homestead and Dunbrody Famine Ship, County Wexford

REQUIRED READINGS FROM:

- Bronwen, W. (2017) 'The Diaspora in a Comparative and Multi-Generational Perspective'. In Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E., eds. *The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Coogan, T.P. (2002) *Wherever Green is Worn: The Story of the Irish Diaspora*. London: Arrow House Books.
- RTÉ (2013), Sugar and the Blue-Eyed Slaves. Available at: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/doconone/647482-documentary-sugar-blue-eyed-slave-montserrat-slaves> [6th June, 2024].
- Dalleck, R. (2004) *John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Business*. London: Penguin.
- Hackett Fisher, D. (1991) *Albions Seed: Four British Folkways in America*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kenny, K. (2017) 'Irish Emigrations in a Comparative Perspective'. In: Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E., eds. *The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- King, J. (2008) 'Ireland and Canada'. In: Byrne, J.P. Coleman, P. and King J. eds. *Ireland and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, Volume 1. Santa Barbara, Denver and Oxford: ABC Clío.
- Meagher, T. (2017) 'Irish America'. In: Biagini, E.F. and Daly, M.E. eds. *The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Murray, E. (2008) 'Ireland and Latin America' in Byrne, J.P. Coleman, P. and King J. eds. *Ireland and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, Volume 1. Santa Barbara, Denver and Oxford: ABC Clío.

- McCulloch, D. (2017) *De Valera: Rise 1882-1932*. Dublin: Gill Books.
- McGreevey, R. (2023) 'Newfoundland communities are 'most Irish' outside Ireland', genetic study finds, *Irish Times*, 15 May. Available at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2023/05/15/newfoundland-communities-are-most-irish-outside-ireland-genetic-study-finds/>. [Accessed 6th June, 2024].
- O' Reilly, William (2020) 'Ireland in the Atlantic World: Migration and Cultural Transfer'. In: Ohlmeyer J. ed. *The Cambridge History of Ireland, Volume II 1550-1730*.
- RTÉ (1981). The Forgotten Irish in Newfoundland. Available at: <https://www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/1378-radharc/355628-the-forgotten-irish/> [Accessed 25th May, 2024].
- Spreight, P. (2019) *Irish-Argentine Identity in an Age of Political Challenge and Change, 1875-1983*. Oxford: Peter Lang.
- RTE (2004) *The Argentina Connection*. Available at: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/doconone/646156-argentinan> [Accessed 26th May, 2024].
- The Mannion Collection (2024) Irish Migration and Settlement in Newfoundland 1750-1850. The Mannion Collection Digitalising the records of Dr. John Mannion Available At: <https://www.mannioncollection.ca/default.aspx> [Accessed 6th May, 2024].
- Tubridy, R. (2010) *JFK in Ireland: Four days that Changed a President*. Dublin: Collins Press.
- Wall, S. (2017) *Irish Diasporic Narratives in Argentina: A Reconsideration of Home, Identity and Belonging*, Oxford: Peter Lang.