Global Irish Communities: London

SYLLABUS

Description:

This course examines the history of the Irish in Britain from earliest times to the present day, with a particular focus on the last two centuries and a component which introduces students to the role of archives in historical research. The course takes a broadly thematic approach to the subject of the Irish in Britain looking at set topics each week across the chronological range. By doing so, it provides students with a wide-ranging and comparative historical perspective on issues such as: changing motivations for migration; evolving patterns of transport and settlement; shifting social and political influences; the development of differing cultural identities and expression. In addition to looking at relations between migrant and host communities, the course also explores interactions between the Irish in Britain and the Irish in Ireland and investigates how the relationship between those who leave and those who stay is reflected in the social, political and cultural domains. A strong emphasis of the course will be access to archival records and collections in order to provide students with the opportunity to directly consult contemporaneous documentation and other audio-visual materials. The course will conclude with a review of the key themes and an assessment of the current position of the Irish in Britain in relation to the wider Irish diaspora.

Course Goals:

- detailed introduction and insight into the main causes and consequences of Irish migration to Britain.
- historical understanding of the changing features and contexts of life for the Irish in Britain
- analysis of primary source and archival information on the Irish in Britain and its evaluation in a broad comparative context.

Assessment Components:

1. **Research Presentation** (10 minutes) evaluating a primary source about the Irish in Britain of the student’s choice. The presentation must be carefully prepared and include Powerpoint and/or hand-outs and aim to encourage questions and discussion with the rest of the group about the topic. (10%) Due week 2-15

2. **Paper** (4 pages/1000 words) discussing the use of archives for the study of Irish migration history based on the student’s study of articles on the topic and first-hand experience of visits to archives. The paper can address how certain scholarly articles make use of archives or it can focus on the student's own experience with archival sources. (25%) Due week 10
3. **Proposal** (3 pages/750 words) outlining the main ideas, arguments and methodology to be used in the final paper. The proposal should be clear, concise and well-structured with sufficient detail to demonstrate a valid and convincing approach. (15%) Due week 12

4. **Annotated bibliography** (2 pages/500 words) outlining and critiquing a minimum of 10 primary and secondary sources to be consulted for the completion of the final paper (10%) Due week 12

5. **Final Paper** (12 pages/3000 words) on the history of the Irish in Britain with questions based on the topics covered by the syllabus. This paper will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of a chosen topic from the syllabus but will contextualize that knowledge in a historical understanding of the changing circumstances of the Irish in Britain acquired week-to-week on the course. The paper will integrate but not duplicate work from previous assignments. (40%) Due week 15

**Key Texts:**

- Hickman, Mary J. *Race, Class and Identity* (Aldershot: Avebury, 1995)
Week 1: Introduction: The Global Context of Irish Migration

Screening: The Irish Empire: The Scattering (RTE/BBC, 2000)

Set Reading:

Akenson, Donald Harman. ‘Introduction: the Fabergé Egg’ in The Irish Diaspora: A Primer (Belfast: Queen’s University Belfast, 1993) 3-15


Week 2: Why Britain?: Push and Pull Factors

Set Reading:


Week 3: Patterns of Settlement

Set Reading:


MacRaild, Donald. ‘Concentration and Dispersal: Irish Labour Migration to Britain’ in The Irish Diaspora in Britain, 1750-1939 (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) 33-63

Swift, Roger. ‘Irish Settlement in Britain’ in The Irish in Britain 1815-1914: Perspectives and Sources (London: Historical Association, 1990) 11-14
Week 4: **Irish Migration and the Uses of Archives**

Set Reading:


Dobson, Miriam and Benjamin Ziemann. ‘Introduction’ in *Reading Primary Sources: The Interpretation of Texts from the 19th and 20th Century History* (London: Routledge, 2009) 1-18


Week 5: **Archive Visit I: London Metropolitan Archives**

Set Reading:


Steedman, Carolyn. ‘The Space of Memory: In an Archive’ in *Dust* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2001) 66-88

Week 6: **Race, Nation and Discrimination**

Set Reading:


Week 7: **Differences between Male and Female Experiences**

Set Readings:


Ryan, Louise. ‘Family matters: (e)migration, familial networks and Irish women in Britain’ in *Sociological Review* 52:3 (2004) 351-70

**Week 8: Migration, Ethnicity and the Community Archive**

Set Reading:

Flinn, Andrew. ‘Community Histories, Community Archives: Some Opportunities and Challenges’ in *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 28:2 (October 2007) 151-76


Slater, Gerry. ‘Confessions of an Archivist’ in *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 29:2 (October 2008) 139-45

**Week 9: Archive Visit II: Archive of the Irish in Britain**

Set Reading:


**Week 10: Migration, Culture and Irish Identity**

Set Reading:


**Week 11:** Regional Variations I: Scotland

*Set Reading:*


**Week 12:** Regional Variations II: London

*Set Reading:*


**Week 13:** Life Narratives and Personal Perspectives

*Screening:* *I Only Came Over for a Couple of Years…: Interviews with London Irish Elders* (London: David Kelly Films, 2005)
Set Reading:

Gray, Breda. ‘Migration, Life Narratives, Memory and Subjectivity: Reflections on an Archival Project on Irish Migration’ in Migration Letters 6:2 (October 2009) 109-17


Week 14: Of Irish Descent: Second Generation Experiences

Set Reading:


Ullah, Philip. ‘Second-generation Irish Youth: Identity and Ethnicity’ in New Community 12 (Summer 1985) 310-20

Walter, Bronwen. ‘English/Irish Hybridity: Second-generation Diasporic Identities’ in International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations 5 (2005/06) 1-7

Week 15: The Irish in Britain Today

Set Reading:

http://www.irishtimes.com/blogs/generationemigration/

Geoghegan, Peter. ‘The Great Migration’ in Irish Business Post (16 January 2011)


Hennessey, Mark. ‘Generation LDN’ in Irish Times – Weekend Review (9 July 2011) 1-2
Walls, Patricia. *Still Leaving: Recent, vulnerable Irish emigrants to the UK: profile, experiences and pre-departure solutions* (Dublin: Emigrant Advice, 2005) 2-33