

Irish Presence in America

Course Outline

Spring 2019 (HSSP: H12792)

Instructor: Hanwen (Alex) Chen (**Course Coordinator**); TBA (Co-Lecturer)

Meeting Time: TBA

Room: TBA

Email: chen.hanw@husky.neu.edu (any question regarding the course content or instruction, please contact the course coordinator)

Content: This course provides students with an overview of the sociological, political, and cultural impacts of Irish diaspora in American society from 1800s to present. This course will also analyze the characteristics, contributions, and impacts of Irish communities in the United States throughout history. By studying the background and factors of migration, students will gain a deeper understanding of trans-Atlantic cultural identity and develop an appreciation to the making of the modern American society. Topics include the Potato Famine, immigration and urbanization, political impact in the U.S., the Gaelic League, St. Patrick's Day, Irish nationalism and the Easter Rising, and other topics if time permits. Modern figures such as Liam Neilson, John F. Kennedy, and Colm Toibin will be covered.

Prerequisites: None. This course is open to students in all grade levels and **all backgrounds**.

Rationale: Although this course approaches the subject through an Irish perspective, the goal is to find connections between Irish diaspora to their own identity and perhaps the making of modern America. Using Irish Americans as a case study, students will gain new perspectives on identity and resilience.

Primary Objectives: Students will be able to:

- Understand the events and figures that shaped Irish history and identity.
- Explain the concept of cultural identity.
- Analyze cultural, sociological, and political impact of Irish presence in America.
- Apply the concept of Irish diaspora to other immigrant groups coming into the United States and how these people affect American identity.
- Develop a deep appreciation to the founding of modern American society.

Secondary Objectives: Through the methodologies of instruction, students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of research and basic skills of presentation.
- Learn to use a variety of sources to conduct research, including print books, journal articles, memoirs, literature works, films, music, and documentaries.
- Apply research skills in other areas of study including social sciences and natural sciences.

Irish Presence in America

Course Outline

Spring 2019 (HSSP: H12792)

Sources: The instructor will use the following sources in preparation of lectures. Students are NOT expected to obtain any of the source.

- Dolan, Jay P. *The Irish Americans*.
- Other online/print sources will be cited at a later date.

General: Students and teachers should always respect the classroom space, respect themselves, and respect each other. It is the instructor's commitment to create a safe and healthy learning environment. *The instructor has completed Mandated Reporter Training and is 51A certified.*

Course Outline:

Lecture 1: Introduction; The Potato Famine and Migration

- Introduction to this course, its relevance, and methodology.
- The Great Potato Famine of 1840s is the first major wave of Irish Immigration to America. This lecture will start by presenting the historical side of the Famine and analyze the factors that contributed to this mass migration. Students will imply the knowledge and explore ideology, culture, and worldview these immigrants bring to the United States and how these cultural memories later impact American identity.

Lecture 2: Cultural Memory and Irish Americans

- The first part of this lecture will continue to discuss the cultural memory of the Famine through a variety of sources including literature and photographs. Modern movie clips will also be shown. Through the discussion of the Potato Famine, students will then explore the life of first generation immigrants in America.
- The second part of this lecture will explore the Irish American community both religious and social. The Gaelic Language Movement as well as Gaelic sports and music will be presented. The Gaelic League and St. Patrick's Day will also be discussed.

Lecture 3: Irish Communities in America

- This lecture will explore the Irish American community in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Students will also explore the political influence of Irish Americans including the Tammany Hall.

Lecture 4: Political Influence and Irish Nationalism

- This lecture will discuss the political influence of Irish Americans on Ireland. This lecture will approach the Easter Rising and the War of Independence through the perspective of Americans. Then, this lecture will discuss the making of Irish independence. Students will trace the roots of Irish

Irish Presence in America

Course Outline

Spring 2019 (HSSP: H12792)

Independence back to the Great Potato Famine and ideologies of the first-generation immigrants.

Lecture 5: Building the Nation

- Throughout these few decades, Irish immigrants has transformed from unskilled labors to blue-collars, government workers, artists, etc. This lecture will explore these transformation through primary sources and discuss the achievement and contribution of Irish Americans in the development of the modern United States.

Lecture 6: Entering the 21st Century

- This last lecture will summarize the course and analyze the significance of Irish Americans in connection to other immigrants group in building this nation. Modern Irish figures such as Liam Nelson, John F. Kennedy, and other pop culture figures will be addressed. A short presentation on Ireland today using photos and videos will be given at the end of the lecture. The idea of resilience will also be introduced. This will be a novel perspective looking at other period of time in history and analyzing modern American identity.

Each class will contain a lecture and some activities.

Outline may change at the discretion of the instructor.

failte