

Duration & Structure:

1 evening per week (Thursday) for 3 hours. Classes run from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Course runs for 10 weeks.

Two one-hour sessions with a 30 minute tea break between them and a 30 minute tutorial session to conclude. Tea break affords time for students to build up relationships and to get to know the tutor.

WEEK 1

Thurs. 18 January

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Introduction to Irish Genealogy**

In this class we will begin with a brief overview of genealogy and a discussion of family sources: documents, photographs and stories which provide the basis of family history.. An overview of the records we will be studying in depth during the course will be presented. An introduction to the administrative divisions of Ireland will be provided.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Overview of Online Sources**

Sources online will feature throughout the course and they will be dealt with in depth in later sessions. This session plans to give a broad overview of the material available online and the pitfalls researchers may encounter in using it. Surname, place spelling and potential age variations in records will be discussed

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session**

A chance for students to get a better feel of how the course will develop and introduce themselves. Assignment 1 will be explained.

WEEK 2

Thurs. 28 January

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Civil Records of Birth, Death & Marriage**

This presentation will include a brief history of civil registration in Ireland, an explanation of the registration districts and the division of civil records in 1922. Birth, marriage and death records will be examined, while online and in situ (in Dublin and Belfast) access to the indexes and records will be discussed.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Census Returns**

In this class an overview of Irish census records will be provided. As the 1901 and 1911 Censuses are the only existing complete returns for all of Ireland, these will be studied. Surviving nineteenth century census material and Census Search Forms will also be discussed.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session**

A review of week 1 and the homework tasks set. A chance for questions about assignment 1.

WEEK 3

Thurs. 4 February

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Roman Catholic Parish Records

This class will concentrate on Roman Catholic parish records. Background will be provided on the variation of quality, condition, dates, etc., of parish registers. The information they may provide and the range of access options will be explained.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Research Techniques, Report Writing & Assignment 1

This session will concentrate on the best approaches to systematically researching sources, taking notes and analysing results, as well as writing up the findings. Students will be advised on how research skills should be applied to the assignments. In relation to Assignment 1, its parts will be discussed and advice will be given on the preparation for the report. Students will be given guidance on standards and general practices in report writing, including citation of sources. This will equip students for completing the report on their first assignment, due two weeks later, as well as preparing them for the more elaborate report on Assignment 2.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

Recapping on previous week's lectures and general discussion, giving students the chance to ask questions about any aspect of the course so far.

WEEK 4

Thurs. 11 February

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Land Records 1

In this session students will be introduced to Griffith's *Primary Valuation* and related land records, as well as the earlier Tithe Applotment Books. The various ways of gaining access to these records will be explained.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Land Records 2

In this class, following up on the first Land Records presentation, the records held in the Valuation Office in the Irish Life Centre will be dealt with in more detail.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

A last chance for questions on assignment 1 before submission next week and a review of the previous week's lectures and homework.

WEEK 5

Thurs. 18 February

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Church of Ireland Records

In this session the students are given an overview of the records available for Church of Ireland parishes. Historical background, contents of parish records, survival and various avenues of access will be discussed.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Newspapers as a Resource for Genealogy

Newspapers provide a wealth of information of potential relevance to individual ancestors. This session examines the changing nature of the content of Irish newspapers and the various ways in which the information may be accessed.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

A chance for students to talk about their experience of completing assignment 1 and a review of the land records lectures and homework from week 4.

WEEK 6

Thurs. 25 February

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Feedback on Assignment 1 and General Discussion

This session gives the opportunity to assess the progress made so far and to prepare for Assignment 2. It also allows students to ask broader questions and generally assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Non-Conformist Church Records

This lecture on Protestant church parish records concerns Dissenting or Non-Conformist denominations. While an overview of history of such groups will be given, emphasis will be placed on the larger denominations such as Presbyterians and Methodists in relation to the contents of church records and access.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

An introduction to assignment 2 and a review of the lectures and homework from week 5.

WEEK 7

Thurs. 4 March

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Testamentary Records

Today most people make wills or, if they die intestate, administration of their estate is granted by the Probate Office. Before the mid-twentieth century this was not the case. However, when wills are found they can provide a wealth of information. This lecture introduces the students to the sometimes bewildering area of such records.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Trade Directories & Occupational Records

This lecture will give a brief overview on the wide range of trade and street directories available, as well as a select number of other records relating to occupations. The type of information they may reveal, where they may be accessed and how they are most productively searched will be covered.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

Recap on week 6 and a look at copyright considerations.

WEEK 8

Thurs. 11 March

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Estate Papers

For anyone whose ancestors were tenants on the great estates of Ireland, an understanding of the records of these estates is essential for genealogical research. An overview of the locations of these records, the information they contain and the diversity of their formats will be presented.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Comprehensive Revision Session for Assignment 2

In this session the tutor will discuss with the students the four core classes of records – Civil Records, Church Registers, Census Returns and Land Records. This is an opportunity for students to correct any misapprehensions and to improve their understanding of sources of which they should now have practical experience.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Report Writing & Discussion on Assignment 2

In preparation for Assignment 2 this session will concentrate on the essential points of report writing. This is a chance to clarify any points students may wish to discuss.

WEEK 9

Thurs. 18 [???] March

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Registry of Deeds

The Registry of Deeds was set up in 1708 as part of the mechanism associated with the Penal Laws designed to control and reduce Catholic land ownership. Not all deeds were registered but the records of 'the Deeds' contain a wealth of information on eighteenth and nineteenth century Ireland. Though the records primarily relate to the propertied classes, they are not limited to them. Memorials of such documents as property sales, leases, mortgages, marriage settlements and (to a lesser extent) wills can open up new areas of research for family historians.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Tracing Emigrants

People invariably want to trace what happened to an ancestor's sibling who went to America or Australia. Until recent years this was unlikely to prove possible, but now with passenger lists and other overseas sources searchable online there is at least the possibility of success.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial: Final Discussion on Assignment 2

This is the last session before Assignment 2 is to be handed in. It is a chance to clarify any points students may wish to discuss.

WEEK 10

Thurs. 25 [???] March

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Use of DNA in Genealogy

DNA testing is now a popular aspect of attempting to find clues to genealogical connections beyond the written records. The options for this and the type of results that may be revealed will be explored.

Session 2 8.00-8.30

Taking it one Step Further

An introduction to some of the main repositories and resources such as CSORP; workhouse records, the genealogical office; petty court sessions and prison registers amongst others.

Session 3 8.30-9.30

Tutorial : Beyond the Course

In this 'wrap up' session the tutor will offer suggestions on how students may get more involved in the world of family history research, whether they wish to pursue genealogy further as a hobby, apply it to some aspect of their working lives or develop a career in ancestral research.

Assessment

Students must attend at least 80% of classes to graduate with either the Diploma or Certificate of Attendance unless a serious and verifiable reason for further absence is provided.

If completing the course online, attendance and participation is tracked through Moodle.

There will be two assignments. Assignment 1 must be handed in on Week 5. It will count for 30% of the overall mark for the course. Assignment 2 must be handed in on Week 10. It will count for 70% of the overall mark. A pass grade on the written assignments will be required for awarding of the Diploma.