Irish and Chinese in the Modern Pacific World
FRSEM-UA 720, Spring 2019

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Lecture and discussion:
Wed., Ireland House, 11:00am-1:30pm

Office hours:
Mon.: 3:30pm-4:30pm
Wed.: 10:00am-11:00am
or by appointment

Course Description
The Pacific Ocean covers almost one-third of the earth’s surface, roughly one-third of the world’s population inhabits its islands and shores, and many have dubbed the twenty-first century the “Pacific Century” to reflect major shifts in global power from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This course surveys the history of the Pacific world (the immense space that includes the Pacific Ocean, west coast of the Americas, Pacific Islands and Oceania, and East and Southeast Asia) from the perspective of Irish and Chinese diasporas in the Pacific since the late eighteenth century. We will chart Irish and Chinese involvement in the processes that shaped the modern Pacific world such as migration, imperial expansion, maritime commerce, diplomacy, nationalism, and cross-cultural exchange. Utilizing comparative and transnational approaches and drawing on an array of primary sources, we will examine the nature of interactions between Irish, Chinese, and various other people who inhabited and traversed the Pacific Rim, study the similarities and differences between the experiences of Irish and Chinese migrants in the Pacific world, and explore the influence of Pacific Irish and Chinese on receiving societies and their respective homelands.

Course Learning Goals
Students who regularly attend class, participate in classroom discussion, and complete all written assignments will improve their ability to:
• Analyze and contextualize a range of primary sources, read secondary sources critically, and differentiate between informed interpretations and biased accounts

• Convey ideas verbally and craft written arguments based on relevant historical evidence

• Conduct historical research using library, archival, and online resources, comprehend standard citation formats, and understand historiography

Students will also further their knowledge and understanding of:

• The key themes and topics in the history of the modern Pacific world

• The major events, personalities, and forces that shaped the history of the Pacific since the late eighteenth century

• The comparative experiences of the Irish and Chinese diasporas in the Pacific world

• The main interpretations and approaches to the study of the history of the Pacific world

Course Requirements and Grading Policies

• Participation: Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded at the beginning of class. Each unexcused absence will depreciate your participation grade by 10%. You can avoid a reduction in your participation grade in the case of an unexcused absence if you submit a 300-400 word paper (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu before the next class you attend) summarizing the reading for the class(es) you missed. An excused absence (except for religious holidays) requires a note from a physician, NYU Dean’s Office/ relevant NYU official, or Moses Center for Students with Disabilities. Disability Disclosure Statement: “Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.” Participation is measured by the following criteria: arriving to class on time and prepared to discuss the assigned readings; paying attention during lectures and discussions; listening carefully to others speak; engaging respectfully with those who have opposing viewpoints; providing questions and comments relevant to the assigned readings and discussion questions (10%)

• Blog posts: You are required to write a blog post (200-300 words in NYU Classes) on the assigned readings and discussion question(s) each week and this is due no later than Tuesday at 10:00pm. Blog posts, which are shared with the entire class and you are encouraged to read, will serve as a starting point for our classroom discussion (15%)

• Lead a discussion: You will co-lead one classroom discussion early in the semester. See handout on expectations for co-leading a discussion (5%)

• Short paper 1: 5-7 page paper based on material covered in weeks 1-5. The paper question will be distributed February 27 and is due by March 6 11:59 p.m. EST (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu). See handout on expectations for the paper (20%)
• **Short paper 2:** 5-7 page paper based on material covered in weeks 6-11. The paper question will be distributed April 10 and is due by **April 17 11:59 p.m. EST** (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu). See handouts on expectations for the paper (20%)

• **Research paper:** 10-12 page research paper grounded in both primary and secondary sources and based on themes and topics addressed in the course. Students are required to submit a 1-2 page paper proposal by **April 10 11:59 p.m. EST** (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu). The research paper is due by **May 15 11:59 p.m. EST** (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu). See handouts on expectations for the paper proposal and research paper (25%)

• **Research presentation:** You will present your research paper findings in the final week of the semester. See handout on expectations for the research paper presentation (5%)

**Readings**
All of the course material is available on NYU Classes, at NYU libraries, and electronically with your NYU login credentials

**Recommended Guides:**

*Research*

*Style*

*Writing*

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to uphold the New York University College of Arts and Science Honor Code, which can be found here: [http://cas.nyu.edu/academic-integrity/honor-code.html](http://cas.nyu.edu/academic-integrity/honor-code.html). Consult with me or another NYU faculty member if you are unsure about any aspect of the Honor Code. Further details on academic integrity can be found at the following web page: [https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html](https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html)

Plagiarized assignments will receive an “F” grade and violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Director of Undergraduate Studies/Associate Dean for Students

**Schedule and Readings**

Week 1 (Jan. 30): Course Overview & Syllabus Review
**Week 2 (Feb. 6): The Pacific in World History**


- See NYU Classes for additional materials

**Week 3 (Feb. 13): The Historian’s Craft**

- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 1-151 (NYU Bobst main collection and online access)

- See NYU Classes for additional materials

**Week 4 (Feb. 20): The “Great Divergence” Debate**

- David D. Buck, “Was It Pluck or Luck That Made the West Grow Rich?” *Journal of World History* 10, no. 2 (Fall 1999): 413-30 (NYU Classes)


- Peer Vries, “The California School and Beyond: How to Study the Great Divergence?” *History Compass* 8/7 (2010): 730-51 (NYU Classes)

- See NYU Classes for additional materials

**Week 5 (Feb. 27): Irish and Chinese Diasporas: New Approaches and Patterns of Migration**

- Malcolm Campbell, “Irish Immigrants in the Pacific World,” in *Ireland, Australia and New Zealand: History, Politics*
and Culture, eds. L. M. Geary and A. J. McCarthy (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2008), 3-12 (NYU Classes)


• See NYU Classes for additional materials

Week 6 (Mar. 6)

Irish, the West, and the Pacific: Early Interactions and Exchange


• See NYU Classes for additional materials

*** Short paper 1 due by March 6 11:59 p.m. EST (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu) ***
Week 7 (Mar. 13): Ireland, the West, and the Pacific: Imperialism and the “Open Door”


- See NYU Classes for additional materials

Week 8 (Mar 20): Spring Recess — No Class

Week 9 (Mar. 27): The United States and the Pacific World

- David M. Emmons, Beyond the American Pale: The Irish in the West, 1845-1910 (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010), excerpts (NYU Classes)

- Michael J. Green, By More Than Providence: Grand Strategy and American Power in the Asia Pacific Since 1783 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2017), excerpts (NYU Classes)

- Mae Ngai, “Western History and the Pacific World,” Western Historical Quarterly 43, no. 3 (Autumn 2012): 282-88 (NYU Classes)

- Elizabeth Sinn, Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2013), excerpts (NYU Classes)

- See NYU Classes for additional materials

Week 10 (Apr. 3): Irish and Chinese in Australia and New Zealand


• Angela McCarthy, “The Irish in Australia and New Zealand” in The Cambridge Social History of Modern Ireland, eds. Eugenio F. Biagini and Mary E. Daly (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 478-96 (NYU Classes)

• See NYU Classes for additional materials

Week 11 (Apr. 10): Labor, Race, and Empire in the Pacific


• Ryan Dearinger, “‘The Greatest Monument of Human Labor’: Chinese Immigrants, the Landscape of Progress, and the Work of Building and Celebrating the Transcontinental Railroad,” in The Filth of Progress: Immigrants, Americans, and the Building of Canals and Railroads in the West (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2016), 151-87 (NYU Classes)

• Aims McGuinness, Path of Empire: Panama and the California Gold Rush (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2008), introd. and ch. 2 (NYU Classes)

• See NYU Classes for additional materials

** 1-2 page paper proposal due by April 10 11:59 p.m. EST (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu)**

Week 12 (Apr. 17): The “White Pacific:” Asian Exclusion and Immigration Restriction

• David Atkinson, “The White Australia Policy, the British Empire, and the World,” Britain and the World (September 2015): 204-24 (NYU Classes)


• See NYU Classes for additional materials

*** Short paper 2 due by April 17 11:59 p.m. EST (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu) ***

**Week 13 (Apr. 24): Challenging and Subverting the “White Pacific”**


• See NYU Classes for additional materials

**Week 14 (May 1): Nationalism and Anti-Imperialism**

• Warren I. Cohen, East Asia at the Center: Four Thousand Years of Engagement with the World (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 303-37 (NYU Classes)

• Philip A. Kuhn, Chinese Among Others: Emigration in Modern Times (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), ch. 6 (NYU Classes)


• Úna Ní Bhroiméil, “‘Up with the American Flag in All the Glory of its Stainless Honor’: Anti-Imperial Rhetoric in the Chicago Citizen, 1898-1902,” in Ireland in an Imperial World: Citizenship, Opportunism, and Subversion, eds. Timothy G. McMahon, Michael de Nie, and Paul Townend (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 245-64
• See NYU Classes for additional materials

Week 15 (May 8):

A New “Pacific Century”? & Research Paper Presentations


• See NYU Classes for additional materials

** The research paper is due by May 15 11:59 p.m. EST (email to barry.mccarron@nyu.edu)**