TITLE OF COURSE: Finding Your Irish Roots: Trials, Triumphs, and Treasures (Genealogy)

INSTRUCTOR’S NAME: Sylvia Tracy-Doolos

COURSE MEETING TIMES: Wednesdays (February 12 - March 4) 1:00-3:00 pm

COURSE LOCATION: Ruffatto Room 401

CONTACT INFO FOR INSTRUCTOR:
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INSTRUCTOR BIO:
Sylvia Tracy-Doolos has been interested in genealogy for nearly forty years and working as a professional genealogist for ten. She is a member of many genealogical societies, and the President of the Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Family History Society (WISE-FHS) here in Denver, and the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) which focuses on genealogical research in Britain and Ireland. Sylvia chose to study history and linguistics when she returned to school for a second degree, so she could study how immigration and language changes affected American records.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover basic through advanced research techniques, including genetic genealogy, that will give you the best chance of successfully tracing your Irish ancestry. Scope will include; North American research techniques and records, DNA testing and how to successfully utilize your results, immigration records and history, Irish emigration (including helpful British records), and Irish records and how to use them.

RECOMMENDED BOOK: Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide, by John Grenham (4th or 5th Edition) to be borrowed/purchased by student if they choose to. Not required but could be helpful.

SYLLABUS (please provide an overview of each class session; this information will be uploaded to the OLLI at DU Portfolio site):

   Session #1 – Genealogy and DNA basics – Learn good research techniques, including why DNA testing can be an effective tool in your search for Irish ancestry. Overview of North American records that can provide clues to help you cross the Atlantic.

   Session #2 – North American immigration history and records. Before you cross the Atlantic you should understand why immigration records are sometimes hard to find, and sometimes conflict with other records. What events pushed the Irish to leave, and what pulled them to North America?

   Session #3 – Irish emigration history and records. This will include relevant history and records from Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic, and Britain. We’ll look at each record type to understand its value and discuss what to do when the best records have been lost.

   Session #4 – Irish records – what’s available, where to find them, and how to use them. We’ll also explore how to make Irish connections using modern tools.