TITLE OF COURSE: The Irish Diaspora: The Great Emigration

INSTRUCTOR(S) NAME: Dr. James Walsh

COURSE MEETING TIMES: Thursdays (February 13 - March 5) 9:30-11:30 am

COURSE LOCATION: Ruffatto Room 305

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INSTRUCTOR BIO:  
Dr. James Walsh is an Associate Professor in Political Science at the University of Colorado Denver, where he has taught for twenty two years. He specializes in Irish Diasporic Studies, as well as Labor and Immigration History and Politics. Walsh is also the founder of the Romero Theater Troupe, an all-volunteer “organic” community theater that uses the stage to preserve the history of human rights struggles.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Today, as many as 75 million people worldwide claim some kind of Irish ancestry. In the U.S. this figure is nearly 50 million. Nearly four centuries of Irish emigration has had an immeasurable impact on North America, Australia, England, and many other parts of the world. This course will examine the Irish Diaspora and Irish culture across the world, with a heavy emphasis in North America. We will explore Irish emigrant strategies of survival and their struggles for respect and political and economic power. We will look closely at the kinds of labor and cultural institutions that they constructed. Finally, we will examine the relationship today between Ireland and its massive diaspora and how this diaspora has played a prominent role in Irish politics and sectarian violence.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS OR MATERIALS (not required)  
Elizabeth Malcolm and Dianne Hall, *A New History of the Irish in Australia*  
Kirby Miller, *Emigrants and Exiles*  
Hasia Diner, *Erin’s Daughters in America*  
Kevin Kenny, ed. *New Directions in Irish American History*

SYLLABUS:  

Session #1 – Historical context of Irish migration in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. The Ulster Scots and stories of 17th and 18th century migration to North America.

Session #2 – Ireland’s Catholic Diaspora from the Famine to Civil War. The story of Irish convicts sent to Australia. Strategies of organizing and survival in both North America and Australia.

Session #3 – Irish American and Irish Canadian rise to “respectability,” including Machine Politics, the role of Irish Domestic Servants, and How the Irish Became White.

Session #4 – Reflections on Irish hyphenated identities and what it means to carry Irish ancestry within. How Irish emigrant ancestors define the diaspora today.