

Introduction

Interest in local history has never been greater. The activities of numerous local history societies and groups, and private individuals working on their own or with others, all bear testimony to the continuing excitement that derives from researching and understanding the past in a particular locality.

This course has been designed in the University of Limerick as a practical support for such activity. It is for one-year and is a part-time evening course at certificate level. The programme is designed to provide a supportive and stimulating context for reading and research in local history. It offers a qualification to individuals who are already active in the area, an opportunity to those who are interested in historical research for their own personal development and a possible path to further study.

Objectives

On completing the course a participant will have acquired the ability to:

- Examine a range of key issues in the history of localities
- Develop a perspective on how local history might be written
- Identify, locate, assess and interpret primary and secondary sources
- Develop the skills to conduct local history research
- Present the results of research in an appropriate way

A sympathetic academic environment will be provided by the course lecturers who will offer guidance and advice in appropriate research and study skills.

Programme of Study

The course will be delivered through lectures and discussion on one evening a week in each of twelve consecutive weeks of the Autumn and Spring semesters.

The modules are as follows:

Autumn

Introduction to local history: approaches, definitions and presentation

Defining local history; the role of the local historian; introduction to the principal aspects of the methodology of local history; identifying the different approaches to local history; comparative approaches in other countries; contemporary issues and debates in the field of local history; introducing the central concept of 'community'; guidelines for the presentation and publication of local history

Introduction to documentary primary and secondary sources

Identification and location of sources; categorisation of sources; an in-depth analysis of documentary sources (for example, land records, ecclesiastical sources, civil records, census records, reports and substitutes, newspapers, directories, dictionaries, accounts, business records, trade union records, personal records, local government records, literature); how to critically analyse a primary source;

Spring

Non-documentary sources for local history

Locating the principal non-written sources – visual, film, video, oral history, folklore, material culture, the landscape; archaeology, maps, place names; identifying problems and possibilities associated with using sources; interpretation; using the non-written source

History research seminar

The aim of this module is to provide a supportive environment wherein the student is provided with the opportunity to present the results of his or her research and to avail of constructive comment and criticism

Assessment

A central goal of the course is to promote the academic autonomy of each student. Each student will be required to complete a project based on research into primary source material relevant to an understanding of a particular topic in local history. The completed project will be 3,000 words in length. The project will commence in the spring semester and be completed by 1 June.

Academic Calendar 2018–19

Autumn Semester

10 September 2018 – 30 November 2018

Spring Semester

21 January 2019 – 12 April 2018

Course Arrangements

This year the course will run in Portumna Workhouse Centre, Portumna, Co Galway on Tuesday nights during the semester between 6.30 and 9.30 pm.

The course will commence on Tuesday 11 September 2018 (if sufficient numbers are interested).

Entrance Requirements

Applicants are invited from anybody who will be 23 years of age or over on the 1st January of the year of registration. Each candidate is considered on an individual basis whose academic qualifications, work experience, motivation and overall potential for the programme are evaluated.

Course Fee

€620 (subject to review)

To apply online, visit <http://www.ul.ie/cpe/HowToApply>

The latest date for the receipt of applications is 7 September 2018.

Further Information

Dr David Fleming
Email: david.fleming@ul.ie



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



*Certificate in
Local History*