Introduction to Genealogy/Family History
National Library of Ireland, Wednesdays 2-4.30pm
Sean Murphy MA

It is strongly recommended that students bring a laptop, tablet or other Internet-connected device to classes, and they should acquire a National Library reader's ticket.

Lecture 1, 11 September 2019: First Steps
Preview of course; principles of history and of genealogy, recommended texts, preparing draft pedigrees; advice on completing a personal genealogical project; research methods, National Library, National Archives, General Register Office and other record repositories.

Lecture 2, 18 September 2019: Computers and the Internet
Computers and online resources; websites of National Library and other repositories; Ancestral Quest and other genealogy programs, online family trees; photographs, videos and digital images; organising your computer files.

Lecture 3, 25 September 2019: Placenames, Forenames and Surnames
Origins and forms of Irish placenames, administrative divisions; forenames or first names; origins of surnames internationally and in Ireland, surnames of Gaelic and settler origin, septs and chiefs, the question of Irish ‘clans’.

Lecture 4, 2 October 2019: Census Records
Census returns of 1901 and 1911 and pre-1901 fragments, census records online; review of progress in personal genealogical projects.

Note: no class 9 October 2019

Lecture 5, 16 October 2019: Vital Records and Property Valuation Records
Civil records of births, marriages and deaths commencing in 1864 (and non-Catholic marriages commencing in 1845); Tithe Applotment Books (1820s-30s), Griffith’s Valuation (1848-64), Valuation Office records.

Lecture 6, 23 October 2019: Church Records, Wills and Deeds
Parish and church registers (baptism, marriage and burial) of Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and other denominations; National Library and other online church register resources; wills pre- and post-1858, National Archives and online; the holdings of the Registry of Deeds.

Lecture 7, 30 October 2019: Memorial Inscriptions and Miscellaneous Sources
Memorial inscriptions in graveyards, churches and commercial cemeteries; an introduction to estate papers, newspapers, directories, occupational records, and other miscellaneous sources.

Lecture 8, 6 November 2019: Conclusion and Recapitulation
Recapitulation of main points of course, review of students’ progress, comparing portfolios, selected student case studies, planning further work.