Far and Away: Movie Guide and Assignment

Movie info: 1992 Universal Studios (Running Time 2:20:1)

Main Characters:
Shannon: (Nicole Kidman) daughter of landlord Daniel Christy

Joseph Donnelly: (Tom Cruise) son of poor Irish tenant farmer angered by the treatment of Christy’s men

Daniel Christy: Protestant landlord who is unaware of the treatment of Joseph’s family

Steven: Christy’s employee who attempts to collect rents from the poor tenant farmers

Minor Characters: (fill in below as they appear)

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Key Terms from class you should consider while watching

- Immigration
- Absentee Landlord
- Louisiana Purchase
- Expansionism
- Home Rule
- Manifest Destiny
- Industrialization
- Factory system(s)
- Tenant farmers
- Potato Famine

Questions: Answer as you watch

Describe the setting of this movie (when it begins)

Explain the conflict at the beginning of the story
What motivates Shannon to go to the United States?

What motivates Joseph to accompany her?

Are their expectations met when they arrive in the US? Explain.

Describe the living conditions that Joseph and Shannon find in the United States.

How are the roles of men and women different in this film?

How are Irish people treated in the US at this time? (Give specific example from the film)
What must Shannon and Joseph do in order to survive (how do they make a living?)

What is the process for claiming land in the American West at this time?

What do you imagine would happen in the lives of Joseph and Shannon after the ending of the film?