



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

Celtic Civilisation

International Students 2018-19

Semester 2 / Spring 2019

Module Information

*Roinn na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
Department of Early and Medieval Irish, University College Cork
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Celtic Civilisation

Celtic Civilisation offers a broad new perspective on early Irish culture. Requiring no previous knowledge or language skills, the subject reveals Ireland's place in ancient and medieval Europe as well as its links with other Celtic regions. It complements courses in related areas such as archaeology, folklore, history or Irish language. Moreover, it provides you with interdisciplinary and analytical skills which are widely transferable.

Modules in year 1 provide you with a comprehensive overview of the origins and inherited ideology of the Celtic peoples, and introduces you to the rich, vital and violent world of medieval Celtic saga.

Modules in year 2 examine such subjects as medieval Celtic religion and society, and also look at the impact that medieval Ireland had on the culture of Europe as a whole.

Year 3 considers the connections between the various Gaelic peoples of these islands, while also engaging in the close reading of texts in a range of genres. At this point, it is also possible for you to embark on study of Early Irish language.

Teaching & Administration Staff

Celtic Civilisation is taught by members of the Department of Early and Medieval Irish. Departmental offices are located in Block A on the ground floor of the O'Rahilly Building (just left of the reception area). The Departmental noticeboard is located to the right of the reception area.

Early and Medieval Irish Departmental Office: G22 O'Rahilly Building.

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.15 a.m.-1.00 p.m. and 2.15 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

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MODULE EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE TO VISITING STUDENTS

CC2250 Ancient Ireland

(5 credits, this module is available in the Autumn Semester and is repeated in the Spring Semester.)

CC2250 Ancient Ireland is designed to introduce International students to the culture of early medieval Ireland, and to illuminate connections between its literature, mythology, religion, society and material culture. Giving particular emphasis to medieval tales, as a window onto both the culture which produced them and the traditions on which they drew, this short course will open up a rich world of myth, legend, poetry, history and traditions, providing an understanding of the past which enriches our view of the present.

No previous knowledge of the subject is required and all texts will be studied in translation. Extracts of the translated texts and other documentation will be distributed in class. Lists of recommended reading material will also be supplied so students can go on to explore related topics on their own.

Timetable:

Spring Semester: Wednesdays 5pm – 6pm in ORB 123 & Thursdays 2pm – 3pm in ORB 255

Assessment: 2,500 word essay to be submitted at the end of the Semester.

SPRING /SEMESTER 2 MODULES

CC1111S The Ancient Celts: Legacy

(2.5 credits, Spring Semester)

The module charts the progress of the Celtic speaking peoples and their social history on the Continent, in Britain and in Ireland.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Mondays at 3pm – 4pm in Safari Annex

Assessment: Essay (100%)

Reading: D. Rankin, *Celts and the Classical World*; S. James, *Exploring the World of the Celts*.

CC1112 Celtic Religion and Mythology

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

The ancient Celts were famous for their extravagant rituals and for their mysterious druid priesthood; but we have no first-hand evidence for their myths and beliefs. This module examines the rich legendary literatures of medieval Ireland and Wales in search of the pagan supernatural traditions on which they drew.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Wednesdays 12noon – 1pm in Kane G18 & Thursdays 10am – 11am in Boole 2

Assessment: 1hr in-class assessment (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: Jeffrey Gantz, *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*; John T. Koch and John Carey, *The Celtic Heroic Age*; Proinsias Mac Cana, *Celtic Mythology*.

CC2006 Learning and Society in the Celtic Countries

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

A survey of the written sources concerned with the institutions of Church and State. Though the medieval Irish and Welsh law tracts are the most important primary sources for this module, this is not a course in legal history. On completion of this module, students should be able to evaluate the nature of learning and society in the Celtic countries in the Middle Ages, outline the main features of medieval Irish and Welsh society, and critically evaluate the major social documents from medieval Ireland and Wales. All material will be studied in translation.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Tuesdays 9am – 10am in ORB 145 & Tuesdays 11am – 12noon in ORB G20

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: F. Kelly, *A Guide to Early Irish Law*; L. Breatnach, 'Law', in McCone & Simms (ed.), *Progress in Medieval Irish Studies*, 107-21. D.A. Binchy, 'Irish History and Irish Law I-II', *Studia Hibernica* 15, 7-36; 16, 7-45.

CC2007 The Celtic Languages

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

An examination of the emergence of the Celtic family of languages, and of the main developments undergone by them in the ancient and medieval periods. This course provides students with an overview of the Celtic languages from the earliest Continental Celtic inscriptions down to the decline of the Celtic languages in modern times. Such topics as the place of the Celtic languages within the Indo-European language family and the emergence of Celtic in Britain and Ireland are addressed. This course enables students to recognise how the various Celtic languages are related to one another, but each language is also examined individually within its cultural context.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Wednesdays 1pm – 2pm in ORB G20 & Thursdays 4pm – 5pm in West Wing 7

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: G. Price, *Languages in Britain and Ireland*; M.J. Ball, *The Celtic Languages*; D. Greene, *The Irish Language*.

CC2008 Early Irish Spirituality

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

This module examines a range of Irish religious writings from the early medieval period. Students use original sources, read in translation, in order to gain insight into the many-sided world of Christian faith in early Ireland. Themes include prayer, the saints, God's relationship with the cosmos, the continuing role of pagan tradition, and ideas concerning the afterlife and the end of the world.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Thursdays 9am – 10am in ORB 212 & Thursdays 3pm – 4pm in West Wing 9

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: John Carey, *King of Mysteries: Early Irish Religious Writings*; John Carey, *A Single Ray of the Sun: Religious Speculation in Early Ireland*; Gerard Murphy, *Early Irish Lyrics*; Thomas O'Loughlin, *Celtic Theology*.

CC3001 The *Mabinogi*: Legends of Medieval Wales

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

An examination of the Welsh tales called the *Mabinogi*, considered both as vehicles of Celtic tradition and as works of literature. These four stories represent some of the finest narrative prose produced in medieval Europe. In a close reading of these tales in translation, students consider their roots in British myth, the evidence for external influences, and ways in which they serve as documents of the time of their composition.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Thursdays 10am – 11am in West Wing 7 & Fridays 9am – 10am in ORB 203

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: John Carey, *Ireland and the Grail*; Sioned Davies, *The Mabinogion*; Proinsias Mac Cana, *The Mabinogi*; C. W. Sullivan III, *The Mabinogi: A Book of Essays*.

CC3006 Irish Historical Tales

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

This module serves as an introduction to medieval Irish literary compositions about characters and events of the early historical era. The material under investigation is datable to the period between the eighth and twelfth centuries AD. Attitudes to kingship and views of history in the tales are explored. All texts are read in translation.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Mondays 12noon – 1pm in West Wing 8 & Tuesdays 3pm – 4pm in West Wing 7

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: M. Dillon, *The Cycles of the Kings*; D. Wiley, *Essays on the Early Irish King Tales*; Lee J. Rayner, *Legends of the Kings of Ireland*; T.P. Cross & C.H. Slover, *Ancient Irish Tales*.

CC3007 The Finn Cycle

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

Close reading, in translation, of tales and poems from the Finn cycle. Finn mac Cumail is perhaps the greatest hero of the Gaelic world: a warrior and seer celebrated from the oldest records down to our own day. This module surveys tales and poems (all read in translation) reflecting the early phases of the rich cycle of traditions concerning his adventures.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Thursdays 11am – 12noon in West Wing 4 & Thursdays 1pm – 2pm in ORB 202

Assessment: 1hr in-class essay (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: Ann Dooley and Harry Roe, *Tales of the Elders of Ireland*; John T. Koch and John Carey, *The Celtic Heroic Age*; Joseph J. Flahive, *The Fenian Cycle in Irish and Scots-Gaelic Literature*; Kuno Meyer, *Fianaigeacht*; Kevin Murray, *The Early Finn Cycle*.

CC3011 Early Irish II

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

Study of the basic rules of Early Irish grammar and syntax.

Students wishing to take this module must have studied CC3010 or Early Irish previously.

Timetable: Spring Semester, Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm in ORB 145 & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm in West Wing 8

Assessment: 1hr in-class test (20%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (80%)

Reading: E.G. Quin, *Old-Irish Workbook*; J. Strachan, *Old-Irish Paradigms and Selections from the Old-Irish Glosses*; R. Thurneysen, *A Grammar of Old Irish*; R. de Vries, *A Student's Companion to Old Irish Grammar*.

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10		CC2006 ORB 145		CC2008 ORB 212	CC3001 ORB 203
10-11				CC1112 Boole 2 <hr/> CC3001 West Wing 7	
11-12		CC2006 ORB G20		CC3007 West Wing 4	
12-1	CC3006 West Wing 8		CC1112 Kane G18		
1-2		CC3011 ORB 145	CC2007 ORB G20	CC3007 ORB 202	
2-3				CC2250 ORB 255	
3-4	CC1111S Safari Annex	CC3006 West Wing 7		CC2008 West Wing 9	
4-5		CC3011 West Wing 8		CC2007 West Wing 7	
5-6			CC2250 ORB 123		