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# UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

# Celtic Civilisation

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## First Year 2021-22

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*PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

**Roinn na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge**  
**Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh**

Department of Early and Medieval Irish  
University College Cork

Welcome to UCC and thank you for your interest in the Celtic Civilisation programme! This brochure will give you information about our first-year modules and about the programme as a whole, along with relevant practical details.

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## **MODES OF TEACHING DELIVERY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22**

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The Department of Early and Medieval Irish is committed to delivering as much face-to-face teaching as possible within the context of room capacity, ventilation and student and staff safety.

**Lectures and Tutorials for AY 2021-22 will proceed in keeping with public health guidelines and as per the University's recommendations.**

It is possible that attendance at some lectures may be restricted in numbers in order to observe social distancing requirements. In these cases, teaching will be done in blended format.

**Please note that lectures will be recorded and made available subsequently online for the benefit of students for whom physical attendance is not feasible.**

The most accurate and up-to-date timetabling and teaching arrangements will be available on the relevant CANVAS module pages after completion of programme and module registration. It is important that students be properly registered early so that they can access this information.

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## WELCOME TO FIRST YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION AT UCC!

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Celtic Civilisation offers you a broad, innovative perspective on early Irish culture. Requiring no previous knowledge or language skills, this course brings to life a rich world of myth, legend, poetry, history and tradition, revealing 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 introduce you to the rich, vital and violent world of medieval Celtic saga.

Modules in year 2 provide close readings of tales of the greatest Irish saints, and of the hero Finn and his companions, and offer insightful investigations of aspects of the culture including poetic sensibility, gender roles and the structure of society.

Year 3 considers the connections between the various Gaelic peoples of these islands, and medieval Irish spirituality, while also engaging in the close reading of some of the great works of medieval Irish and Welsh literature. At this point, it is also possible for you to embark on study of Early Irish language and to learn how to decipher medieval manuscripts.

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### FIRST YEAR BA

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Students may choose Celtic Civilisation as one of four subjects in First Year.

First Year Celtic Civilisation students are required to take all of the following modules:

- CC1111 The Ancient Celts
- CC1112 Celtic Religion and Mythology
- CC1113 Celtic Literature

Beyond First Year, students can continue taking Celtic Civilisation as one of their two subjects in Second Year and Third Year. Students may take Celtic Civilisation as a Joint Honours (30/60 credits) or Major Honours (40/60 credits) Subject, or as a 20-credit or 10-credit Minor Subject in a Major or Single Honours degree.

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### TIMETABLE

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Lecture hours:

- Mondays 3pm – 4pm
- Wednesdays 12noon -1pm
- Thursdays 10am-11am

Tutorial hour:

- 1 hour per week to be arranged at the beginning of Semester 1.

## MODULE INFORMATION

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### CC1111 THE ANCIENT CELTS

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5 credits, Autumn and Spring Semesters

This module examines the emergence of the Celts, as well as their culture and their encounters with other societies on the Continent, in Britain and in Ireland.

**Lecturer:** Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh [c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie](mailto:c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie)

**Timetable:** 24 x 1hr Lectures, one hour per week, Semesters 1 and 2

Semester 1: Mondays 3pm – 4pm (Boole 1)

Semester 2: Mondays 3pm – 4pm (Electrical Engineering, Lecture Theatre 2)

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

**Reading:** B. Raftery, ed., *Atlas of the Celts*; S. James, *Exploring the World of the Celts*

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### CC1113 CELTIC LITERATURE

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5 credits, Autumn Semester

The primary focus of this module is the early heroic literature of the Celtic countries (which is studied in translation), with an emphasis on Irish texts from the Ulster Cycle and in particular on *Táin Bó Cúailnge* 'The Cattle-Raid of Cooley', the most important extant epic from medieval Ireland.

**Lecturer:** Dr Kevin Murray [k.murray@ucc.ie](mailto:k.murray@ucc.ie)

**Timetable:** 24 x 1hr Lectures in **Semester 1**

Wednesdays 12noon – 1pm (West Wing 5)

Thursdays 10am – 11am (West Wing 6)

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

**Reading:** J. Gantz, *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*; M. Dillon, *Early Irish Literature*; M. Ní Bhrolcháin, *An Introduction to Early Irish Literature*; *The Táin* (in translation; editions by T. Kinsella, C. Carson or C. O'Rahilly may be used).

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## CC1112 CELTIC RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY

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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.

**Lecturer:** Prof John Carey [j.carey@ucc.ie](mailto:j.carey@ucc.ie)

**Timetable:** 24 x 1hr Lectures in **Semester 2**

Wednesdays 12noon – 1pm (Kane G18)

Thursdays 10am – 11am (Kane G02)

**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*

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### FIRST YEAR TUTORIALS

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Tutorial: One hour per week to be arranged at the beginning of Semester 1. This tutorial will cover material from all the above modules.

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### TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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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, Block A, Ground Floor,  
O’Rahilly Building,  
University College Cork,  
Cork, Ireland.

Telephone: 021 4903360

Email: [EMI@ucc.ie](mailto:EMI@ucc.ie)

Website: [www.ucc.ie/en/smg/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/smg/)

Follow us on Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

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## TERM DATES FOR FIRST YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION

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### **AUTUMN SEMESTER (Semester 1)**

#### **Teaching Period 1**

Monday 27 September 2021 – Friday 3 December 2021

*October Bank Holiday, Monday 25 October 2021*

#### **Study Week**

Monday 6 December 2021 – Thursday 9 December 2021

#### **Semester 1/ Winter Examinations**

Friday 10 December 2021 – Tuesday 21 December 2021

### **CHRISTMAS RECESS**

Wednesday 22 December 2021 – Friday 14 January 2022

### **SPRING SEMESTER (Semester 2)**

#### **Teaching Period 2**

Monday 17 January 2022 – Friday 8 April 2022

#### **Easter Recess**

Monday 11 April 2022 – Friday 22 April 2022

#### **Study Week**

Monday 25 April 2022 – Thursday 28 April 2022

#### **Semester 2/ Summer Examinations**

Friday 29 April 2022 – Friday 13 May 2022

*May Bank Holiday, Monday 2 May 2022*

### **Supplemental Examinations/ Repeat Assessments**

The Autumn Written Examinations will take place from Monday 8 August 2022 - Friday 19 August 2022

*All of the above dates are provisional and subject to change*