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**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

# Celtic Civilisation

**International Students 2021-22**  
**Spring Semester / Semester 2**

**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**

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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 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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## **Teaching & Administration 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 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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Email: [EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie](mailto:EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie)

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

Follow us on Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

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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, Seminars 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 module registration. It is important that students be properly registered early so that they can access this information.

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## **Module Descriptions**

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Full module descriptions are contained in the Modules for Visiting Students 2021/22 which is available on the web at <http://www.ucc.ie/admin/registrar/visiting/>

# MODULE EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE TO VISITING STUDENTS

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## CC2250 Ancient Ireland

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(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 West Wing 6

& Thursdays 2pm – 3pm in O’Rahilly Building 212

### **Assessment:**

1hr in-class assessment (40%)

& 2,000 word essay to be submitted at the end of the Semester (60%)

## SPRING /SEMESTER 2 MODULES

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### CC1100 The Ancient Celts: Legacy

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(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:** Semester 2  
Mondays 3pm – 4pm (West Wing 6)

**Assessment:** 2,000-word essay (100%)

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

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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.

**Timetable:** 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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### CC2006 Learning and Society in the Celtic Countries

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(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. The course focuses on the nature of learning and society in the Celtic countries in the Middle Ages, examines the major social documents from medieval Ireland and Wales, and provides an outline of the main features of medieval Irish and Welsh societies. All material will be studied in translation.

**Timetable:** Semester 2

Tuesdays 9am – 10am (ORB 145) & Tuesdays 11am – 12noon (ORB G20)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class essay/assessment (30%) & 1½hr Summer Written Examination (70%)

**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.

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## CC2007 The Celtic Languages

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(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:** Semester 2

Wednesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB G20) & Thursdays 4pm – 5pm (West Wing 7)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class essay/assessment (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*.

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## CC2013 The Finn Cycle

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(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:** Semester 2

Thursdays 9am – 10am (ORB 212) & Thursdays 3pm – 4pm (West Wing 9)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class essay/assessment (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, *Fianaigecht*; Kevin Murray, *The Early Finn Cycle*.

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## CC3006 Irish Historical Tales

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(5 credits, Spring Semester)

This module serves as an introduction to medieval Irish literary compositions about characters and events of the early historical era. It deals with the genre of medieval Irish literature variously referred to as the Historical Cycle or the Cycles of the Kings. The material under investigation is datable to the period between the eighth and twelfth centuries A.D. and details aspects of the political scene in Ireland c.200-800A.D. Attitudes to kingship and views of history in the tales are explored. Such prominent figures as Niall of the Nine Hostages (Níall Noígíallach), Conn Cétchathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles), Labraid Loingsech and Diarmait mac Cerbaill are discussed comprehensively. Many of the tales reflect political contention between the provinces and with Tara, and there are numerous origin legends of kingdoms and dynasties. They share a common concern with persons and events of the early historical period, from the sixth century to the early eighth. Otherwise, however, the narratives vary in their attitudes to their subjects. Some consist of timeless story-themes, others focus on events like notable battles, and on the personal dramas within the public sphere. The past is viewed through the lens of the present in many such tales.

Study and analysis of selected narrative texts in translation. All texts are read in translation.

**Timetable:** Semester 2

Mondays 12noon – 1pm (West Wing 8) & Tuesdays 3pm – 4pm (West Wing 7)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class essay/assessment (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*.

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## CC3011 Early Irish II

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(5 credits, Spring Semester)

Students wishing to take this module must have studied CC3010 or Early Irish previously. Further study of the basic rules of Early Irish grammar and syntax.

**Timetable:** Semester 2

Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 145) in & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (West Wing 8)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class assessment (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*.

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## CC3014 Early Irish Spirituality

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(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:** Semester 2

Thursdays 11am – 12noon (Connolly C) & Thursdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 101)

**Assessment:** 1hr in-class essay/assessment (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*.

## SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

*Provisional and Subject to Change*

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>9-10</b>		<b>CC2006</b> ORB 145 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		<b>CC2013</b> ORB 212 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
<b>10-11</b>				<b>CC1112</b> Kane G02 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
<b>11-12</b>		<b>CC2006</b> ORB G20 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		<b>CC3014</b> Connolly C <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
<b>12-1</b>	<b>CC3006</b> West Wing 8 <i>Dr Emma Nic Cárthaigh</i>		<b>CC1112</b> Kane G18 <i>Prof John Carey</i>		
<b>1-2</b>		<b>CC3011</b> ORB 145 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>	<b>CC2007</b> ORB G20 <i>Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh</i>	<b>CC3014</b> ORB 101 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
<b>2-3</b>				<b>CC2250</b> ORB 212 <i>Andrea Lane</i>	
<b>3-4</b>	<b>CC1100</b> West Wing 6 <i>Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh</i>	<b>CC3006</b> West Wing 7 <i>Dr Emma Nic Cárthaigh</i>		<b>CC2013</b> West Wing 9 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
<b>4-5</b>		<b>CC3011</b> West Wing 8 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		<b>CC2007</b> West Wing 7 <i>Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh</i>	
<b>5-6</b>			<b>CC2250</b> West Wing 6 <i>Andrea Lane</i>		

CC2250 Ancient Ireland  
 CC1100 The Ancient Celts: Legacy  
 CC1112 Celtic Religion and Mythology  
 CC2006 Learning and Society in the Celtic Countries  
 CC2007 The Celtic Languages

CC2013 The Finn Cycle  
 CC3006 Irish Historical Tales  
 CC3011 Early Irish II  
 CC3014 Devotion and Belief in Early Ireland