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**ucc**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

# Celtic Civilisation

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## Second Year 2024-25

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

Department of Early and Medieval Irish  
University College Cork

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## **Modes of Teaching Delivery for Academic Year 2024-25**

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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.

## Second Year 2024-25

Students can choose Celtic Civilisation as a 10, 20, 30 or 40 credit subject.

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### CC2002 Celtic Saints

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(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

Through close reading of stories about several major Celtic saints, this module illuminates such key aspects of Christianity in the Celtic lands as the nature of miracles, the relationship between spiritual and political power, the place of the saint in the community, and conceptions of the nature of holiness. Attention is given to the texts as literature, to their historical and cultural context, and to the evidence that they afford for conceptions of holiness.

**Timetable:** Semester 1

Thursdays 9am – 10am (Boole 6) & Thursdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 202)

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

**Reading:** John Carey, *King of Mysteries*; Liam de Paor, *Saint Patrick's World*; Adomnán, *Life of St Columba* (trans. Richard Sharpe); Máire Herbert, 'Hagiography', in K. McCone & K. Simms, *Progress in Medieval Irish Studies*.

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### CC2003 Exile and Longing: Early Celtic Lyric Poetry

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(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

Selected texts representative of the earliest poetry of Ireland and Wales are studied in translation. The primary aim of this module is to examine the context that gave rise to the oldest extant vernacular literature in Europe through a close reading of particular poems. The emphasis is on the salient themes that are readily identifiable in these texts such as love, loss, exile, longing, companionship, love and praise of the Creator and the onset of age.

**Timetable:** Semester 1

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

**Assessment:** 2,000 word essay (60%)  
1,000 - 1,500 word essay (40%)

**Reading:** James Carney, *Early Irish Poetry*; Gerard Murphy, *Early Irish Lyrics*; Kuno Meyer, *Selections from Ancient Irish Poetry*; Joseph Clancy, *The Earliest Welsh Poetry*.

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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 kingdom (all material will be studied in translation). 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.

**Timetable:** Semester 2

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

**Assessment:** 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 languages, and of the main developments undergone by them in the ancient and medieval periods. This course provides students with an overview of the history 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 in the Indo-European language tree and the emergence of Insular Celtic 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

Thursdays 3pm – 4pm (West Wing 9) & 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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## CC2011 Gender, Image and Identity in Medieval Ireland

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(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

The Celtic literatures contain a variety of strong and memorable female and male characters, some positively portrayed and others negatively. The idealised gender characteristics which may underpin these portrayals will be explored in the lectures. In the case of the ultimate model of masculinity, the male hero, the myth of heroic prowess coupled with the underlying threat of unpredictability and violence will be examined. In addition, the blurred lines of gender identity in poetry will be a particular focus. Saints' Lives of the Middle Ages, often an expected source of gender role reversal and fluidity, will also be covered. A range of representative texts will be read in translation, and discussed and analysed in lectures.

**Timetable:** Semester 1

Thursdays 3pm – 5pm (ORB 212)

**Assessment:** 2,000-word essay (60%) & 1hr in-class assessment (40%)

**Reading:** Sheehan and Dooley, *Constructing Gender in Medieval Ireland*; Angela Bourke, et al., *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Literature*, vol. 4: *Irish Women's Writing and Traditions*; Charlene Eska, *Cáin Lánamna*.

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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

Wednesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB G20) & Thursdays 9am – 10am (ORB 212)

**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, *Fianaigeacht*; Kevin Murray, *The Early Finn Cycle*.

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## CC2010 Directed Study in Medieval Celtic Culture

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(10 credits, Autumn & Spring Semesters)

**CC2010 is only available to those who are taking Celtic Civilisation as a 40 credit subject.**

Detailed research and presentation on a topic agreed with the Department.

The assessment of this module is based on research on a topic agreed with the Department. You are required to contact a staff member of the Department of Early and Medieval Irish to discuss your proposed project.

Staff members are Dr Cian Ó Cionnfhaoilaidh ([cian.ocionnfhaolaidh@ucc.ie](mailto:cian.ocionnfhaolaidh@ucc.ie)), Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh ([c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie](mailto:c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie)), Dr Emma Nic Cárthaigh ([emma.niccarthaigh@ucc.ie](mailto:emma.niccarthaigh@ucc.ie)), Dr Emmet Taylor ([emmet.taylor@ucc.ie](mailto:emmet.taylor@ucc.ie)), Professor John Carey ([j.carey@ucc.ie](mailto:j.carey@ucc.ie)) and Dr Kevin Murray ([k.murray@ucc.ie](mailto:k.murray@ucc.ie)).

Staff profiles on the departmental website outline their different areas of expertise:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/smg/peoplepublications/>

Please email [EMI@ucc.ie](mailto:EMI@ucc.ie) with your supervisor's name before 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024. It is expected that you will have identified a suitable topic by that date also.

The assessment of CC2010 is as follows:

Essay (2,500 - 4,000 words): 100 marks

Annotated Bibliography: 50 marks

Presentation: 50 marks

Please be advised that the submission end date for the CC2010 Essay and Annotated Bibliography is Monday 24 March 2025. This has to be handed in to the departmental office (ORB G22) before 4pm on or before the above date. A receipt will be issued.

The presentation will take place during the final two weeks of term.

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## **Module Descriptions Academic Programme Catalogue Marks and Standards**

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**Book of Modules:** <http://www.ucc.ie/modules/>

**Academic Programme Catalogue:** <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/>

The **Book of Modules** contains the module descriptions for all modules offered in that year. It is designed for use with the **Academic Programme Catalogue**. The latter contains the regulations relating to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and indicate which modules belong to which programmes. Students should refer to the Book of Modules to find out about individual modules and to the Academic Programme Catalogue to find out about how modules are grouped together to make up programmes.

The rules and regulations governing Examinations, Pass and Progression, and Final Award for all programmes in the Academic Programme Catalogue are outlined in the publication called the **Marks and Standards**.

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### **Academic Programme for BA (Hons) Degree – Celtic Civilisation**

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#### **SECOND ARTS**

##### **40-credit Subject**

Students take 40 credits as follows:

CC2002, CC2003, CC2006, CC2007, CC2011, CC2013 (5 credits per module), CC2010 (10 credits)

##### **30-credit Subject**

Students take 30 credits as follows:

CC2002, CC2003, CC2006, CC2007, CC2011, CC2013 (5 credits per module)

##### **20-credit Subject**

Students take 20 credits from the following:

CC2002, CC2003, CC2006, CC2007, CC2011, CC2013 (5 credits per module)

##### **10-credit Subject**

Students take 10 credits from the following:

CC2002, CC2003, CC2006, CC2007, CC2011, CC2013 (5 credits per module)

*Academic Programme entry for the BA (Hons) Degree:*

<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/bacc/>

## 2024/25 TIMETABLE

### SEMESTER 1/ AUTUMN 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>CC2003</b> O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Emma</i> <i>Nic Cárthaigh</i>		<b>CC2002</b> Boole 6 <i>John Carey</i>	
<b>10-11</b>					
<b>11-12</b>		<b>CC2003</b> O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Emma</i> <i>Nic Cárthaigh</i>			
<b>12-1</b>					
<b>1-2</b>				<b>CC2002</b> O'Rahilly Building 202 <i>John Carey</i>	
<b>2-3</b>					
<b>3-4</b>				<b>CC2011</b> O'Rahilly Building 212 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
<b>4-5</b>				<b>CC2011</b> O'Rahilly Building 212 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
<b>5-6</b>					

CC2002 Celtic Saints

CC2003 Exile and Longing: Early Celtic Lyric Poetry

CC2011 Gender, Image and Identity in Medieval Ireland

## 2024/25 TIMETABLE

### 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> O'Rahilly Building 145 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>		<b>CC2013</b> O'Rahilly Building 212 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
<b>10-11</b>					
<b>11-12</b>		<b>CC2006</b> O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>			
<b>12-1</b>					
<b>1-2</b>			<b>CC2013</b> O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		
<b>2-3</b>					
<b>3-4</b>				<b>CC2007</b> West Wing 9 <i>Caitríona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>	
<b>4-5</b>				<b>CC2007</b> West Wing 7 <i>Caitríona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>	
<b>5-6</b>					

CC2006 Learning and Society in the Celtic Countries

CC2007 The Celtic Languages

CC2013 The Finn Cycle