



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

Celtic Civilisation

Third Year 2024-25

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

Department of Early and Medieval Irish
University College Cork

Website: www.ucc.ie/en/smg/ | Email: EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie | Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

Modes of Teaching Delivery for Academic Year 2024-25

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.

Third Year 2024-25

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

CC3001 Legends of Medieval Wales: The *Mabinogi*

(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

An examination of the Welsh tales designated the *Mabinogi*, considered both as vehicles of Celtic tradition and as works of literature. The four Welsh tales known as 'The Four Branches of the *Mabinogi*' represent some of the finest narrative prose produced in medieval Europe. In a close reading of these stories 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: Semester 1

Thursdays 10am – 11am (West Wing 3) & Wednesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB G20)

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

CC3003 Ireland and Scotland: The Gaelic World in the Middle Ages

(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

This module examines the early political and ecclesiastical interchange between Ireland and Scotland, covering such topics as the expansion of Irish settlers in Scotland at the expense of the indigenous Picts, the range and significance of the monastic federation of Iona, and the impact of the Vikings in different parts of the Gaelic world.

Timetable: Semester 1

Tuesdays 3pm – 4pm (ORB 244) & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (ORB 202)

Assessment: Assessment written in the course of the semester (30%) & 1½hr Winter Written Examination (70%)

Reading: M. Herbert, *Iona, Kells and Derry*; F.J. Byrne, *Irish Kings and High-Kings*; A.P. Smyth, *Warlords and Holy Men: Scotland AD 80-1000*; A. Woolf, *From Pictland to Alba: 789-1070*; J. Bannerman, *Studies in the History of Dalriada*.

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. 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. Attitudes to kingship and views of history in the tales are explored. Such prominent figures as Níall of the Nine Hostages (Níall Noígíallach), Conn Cétchathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles), Labraid Loingsech and Díarmait 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. 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*; K. Murray (ed.), *Revisiting the Cycles of the Kings*.

CC3009 Research Project

(5 credits, Autumn and Spring Semesters)

Research on a topic agreed with the Department.

Assessment: 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 Cionnfhaidh (cian.ocionnfhaidh@ucc.ie) Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh (c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie), Dr Emma Nic Cárthaigh (emma.niccarthaigh@ucc.ie), Dr Emmet Taylor (emmet.taylor@ucc.ie), Professor John Carey (j.carey@ucc.ie) and Dr Kevin Murray (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 with your supervisor's name before 7th October 2024. It is expected that you will have identified a suitable topic by that date also. The recommended word count for the CC3009 project is 2,500 words. Please be advised that the submission end date for the CC3009 project is Thursday 17 April 2025. This project must be handed in to the departmental office (ORB G22) before 4pm on or before the above date. A receipt will be issued.

CC3010 Early Irish I

(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

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

Timetable: Semester 1

Mondays 12noon – 1pm (ORB 255) & Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 145)

The tutorial hour and location will be organised at the beginning of term.

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

CC3011 Early Irish II

(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) & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (West Wing 8)
The tutorial hour and location will be organised at the beginning of term.

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*.

CC3012 The Roots of the Arthurian Legend

(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

The most far-reaching Celtic impact on the European imagination was probably through stories about King Arthur and his knights: although adapted to fit the norms of chivalry, these narratives preserve many themes from Welsh tradition. This module considers the origins of the legends, and traces Celtic elements in the romances themselves. Welsh and Continental Arthurian texts will be read in translation, and analysed and placed in their broader context in lectures.

Timetable: Semester 1
Thursdays 11am – 12noon (West Wing 4) & Fridays 9am – 10am (Boole 5)

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

Reading: Rachel Bromwich et al., *The Arthur of the Welsh*; John Carey, *Ireland and the Grail*; Sioned Davies, *The Mabinogion*; John T. Koch and John Carey, *The Celtic Heroic Age*.

CC3013 Medieval Manuscript Culture

(5 credits, Autumn Semester)

An Introduction to the rich history of medieval manuscripts with a particular emphasis on Irish examples. Themes covered: Medieval Manuscript Culture and Codex Production; Insular Scripts and Scribal Techniques; Late Medieval and Humanist Scripts; the Corpus of Medieval Irish Manuscripts; Modern Irish Manuscript Tradition; Digital Technology and Manuscript Research.

Timetable: Semester 1
Mondays 4pm – 6pm (Food Science Building, Room 322)

Assessment: In-class Transcription Exercise (25%); in-class Codicology Exercise (25%); 1,500-2,000-word essay on a Manuscript/Palaeographical Topic (50%).

Reading: Timothy O'Neill, *The Irish Hand* (Cork University Press: 2014); Michelle P. Brown, *A Guide to Western Historical Scripts from Antiquity to 1600* (British Library Publishing Division, 1999)

CC3014 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: Semester 2

Thursdays 11am – 12noon (Kane G20) & 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*.

Module Descriptions Academic Programme Catalogue Marks and Standards

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**.

Academic Programme for BA (Hons) Degree – Celtic Civilisation

THIRD ARTS

40-credit Subject

Students take 40 credits from the following:

CC3001, CC3003, CC3006, CC3010, CC3011¹, CC3012, CC3013, CC3014 (5 credits per module)

Students may substitute one module from Semester 2 with CC3009 (5 credits). Students should refer to the Department for timetabling information.

30-credit Subject

Students take 30 credits from the following:

CC3001, CC3003, CC3006, CC3009, CC3010, CC3011¹, CC3012, CC3013, CC3014 (5 credits per module)

20-credit Subject

Students take 20 credits from the following:

CC3001, CC3003, CC3006, CC3009, CC3010, CC3011¹, CC3012, CC3013, CC3014² (5 credits per module)

10-credit Subject

Students take 10 credits from the following:

CC3001, CC3003, CC3006, CC3010, CC3011¹, CC3012, CC3013, CC3014 (5 credits per module).

Notes

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

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10					CC3012 Boole 5 <i>John Carey</i>
10-11				CC3001 West Wing 3 <i>John Carey</i>	
11-12				CC3012 West Wing 4 <i>John Carey</i>	
12-1	CC3010 ORB 255 <i>Emma</i> <i>Nic Cárthaigh</i>				
1-2		CC3010 O’Rahilly Building 145 <i>Emma</i> <i>Nic Cárthaigh</i>	CC3001 O’Rahilly Building G20 <i>John Carey</i>		
2-3					
3-4		CC3003 O’Rahilly Building 244 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>			
4-5	CC3013 Food Science Building 322 <i>Caitriona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>	CC3003 O’Rahilly Building 202 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>			
5-6	CC3013 Food Science Building 322 <i>Caitriona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>				

CC3001 Legends of Medieval Wales: The *Mabinogi*
 CC3003 Ireland and Scotland: The Gaelic World in
 the Middle Ages

CC3010 Early Irish I
 CC3012 The Roots of the Arthurian Legend
 CC3013 Medieval Manuscript Culture

2024/25 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10					
10-11					
11-12				CC3014 Kane G20 <i>Emma Nic</i> <i>Cárthaigh</i>	
12-1	CC3006 West Wing 8 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>				
1-2		CC3011 O'Rahilly Building 145 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>		CC3014 O'Rahilly Building 101 <i>Emma Nic</i> <i>Cárthaigh</i>	
2-3					
3-4		CC3006 West Wing 7 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>			
4-5		CC3011 West Wing 8 <i>Cian Ó</i> <i>Cionmhaolaidh</i>			
5-6					

CC3006 Irish Historical Tales
CC3011 Early Irish II

CC3014 Early Irish Spirituality