



Celtic Civilisation

International Students 2025-26 Semester 2 Information

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

Department of Early and Medieval Irish
University College Cork

Celtic Civilisation

Celtic Civilisation offers a broad 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 beliefs 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 medieval Irish spirituality and the connections between the various Gaelic peoples of these islands, 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.

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.

Telephone: +353-21-4903360

Email: EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie

Website: www.ucc.ie/en/smg/

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 provides a comprehensive overview of the origins, ideology, society and history of the inhabitants of Ancient Ireland, and introduces the rich and dynamic world of early Irish literature. Ireland will be studied in the context of its legal and historical material, mythology, poetry and legends, exploring the links between the tales, the landscape and the people. Other sources such as ogham stones and manuscripts will be considered as well.

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 (West Wing 6)
& Thursdays 2pm – 3pm (O’Rahilly Building 212)

Assessment:

1hr in-class assessment (40%)
& 2,000-word essay to be submitted at the end of the Semester (60%)

CC1100 The Ancient Celts: Legacy

(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

Seminars and Tutorials: Mondays 2pm – 3pm (ORB 156)

Lectures: 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*.

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: 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*.

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. 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. Breathnach, '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 languages, and how they developed 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 – 5pm (West Wing 9)

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*.

CC2013 The Finn Cycle

(5 credits, Spring Semester)

Close reading, in translation, of tales and poems from the Finn cycle. Finn mac Cumhaill 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 156)

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*.

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 from the prehistoric period to the twelfth century. Attitudes to kingship and views of history in the tales are explored. Such prominent figures as Níall of the Nine Hostages (Níall Noígíallach), Conn of the Hundred Battles (Conn Céchtachach), 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*.

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

Thursdays 11am – 12noon (Kane G20) & Thursdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 101)
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*

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

Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 145) & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (WW8)

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

Full module descriptions are contained in the Modules for Visiting Students 2025/2026 which is available on the web at <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/modules-visiting-student/>

General Information

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 so that they can access this information.

LATE REGISTRATION

It is the student's responsibility to contact the module lecturers concerned, and to catch up on all material they missed due to late registration.

EMAIL AS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The University will use the student email account to send official correspondence during the academic year. It is the primary means of communication from the Department of Early and Medieval Irish. Therefore, it is important that students regularly check their student email account.

CANVAS

Canvas is the online platform where students find their course materials such as lecture notes, assignments and announcements for each of their registered modules.

UCC'S STUDENT RULES & STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicgov/policies/student-policies/studentrules/>

STUDENT SUPPORTS

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/studentexperience/supports/>

STUDENT IT SERVICES

For direct links to Student IT Services, including IT Support, Umail, Canvas, Office:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/sit/>

LECTURER CONSULTATION

Formal Office hours are either posted on the academic's office door or on Canvas. Students must email the lecturer in advance to confirm a consultation timeslot.

ASSESSMENTS & WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

NUI Marking Bands and Grade Descriptors:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/skillscentre/pdfx27sambookmarks/NUIMarksBands.pdf>

All correspondence regarding the formal written examination timetable is sent by UCC's Student Records and Examinations Office via the UCC student email system (xxx@umail.ucc.ie) only.

Written Examination timetables are available when finalised at <https://mystudentadmin.ucc.ie/>

Guide to Examinations for Staff and Students: You will find the regulations and procedures for examinations and assessments in taught programmes and guidelines to their implementation in the Guide to Examinations for Staff and Students which is on UCC's Academic Policy Portal:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicgov/policies/exam-policies/>

Students are required to assume full responsibility for the completion of all examinations and assignments.

Past Examination Papers are available on the Library website:

<https://libguides.ucc.ie/libraryessentials/exampapers>

MEDICAL CERTS

The student must submit original medical certificates directly to the Departmental office. Hard copies submitted to the office (ORB G22) will be stamped. Scanned copies must be submitted to EMI@ucc.ie

- Generally, students are required to submit medical certificates within two weeks of their absence.
- Information to be provided with the certificate includes the student number, programme, year of study and modules affected.
- If relevant, the student must provide details of any class test(s)/essay deadlines/attendance/class participation impacted by their absence.
- A copy of the medical certificate will be scanned/forwarded to the Student Records and Exams Office (SREO).
- All documentation submitted to the departmental office will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality and will be retained in a secure filing system.

AUTUMN SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Visiting Students who fail modules (or are noted as absent) in Semester 1 (Winter) or Semester 2 (Summer) and wish to repeat in the Supplemental/Repeat Session, must contact the International Office for guidance on registration.

- Supplemental exam and assessment details are included for each module in the Book of Modules for Visiting Students:
<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/modules-visiting-student/>

Students are required to assume full responsibility for the completion of all examinations and assignments.

(Autumn Supplemental marks are usually capped at 40% unless "Mitigation" is applied).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FOR EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

UCC's Academic Integrity for Examinations and Assessments Policy sets out UCC's definitions of academic integrity; signposts supports for staff and students; and outlines the procedures for the investigation of alleged cases of academic misconduct or plagiarism for examinations and assessments. This policy is available at:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicgov/policies/standards/academicintegrityforexaminationsandassessmentspolicy2025-2026/>

- Students are obliged to maintain academic integrity and adhere to the **Academic Integrity for Examinations and Assessments Policy**. They are responsible for familiarising themselves with the concepts and practices of academic integrity, together with the Student Charter and Code of Honour.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that all submitted work meets the University standards for academic integrity and for avoiding academic misconduct in all its forms including but not limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, contract cheating, impersonation, and the unethical use of Generative AI (GenAI).
- Students are responsible for completing academic integrity training or any other skills development when requested to do so and within the specified timeframe.
- Students are responsible for checking their emails regularly. Students will be notified of any suspected academic misconduct or any matter dealt with under this Policy via their UCC email address.

Plagiarism:

When you submit an essay or written work to constituent Departments of the School, you are confirming that it is your own work and that you have written it yourself. If you reproduce extracts from the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgement, this is plagiarism. Equally, if you submit as your own work that of another student, or notes or slides provided by the lecturer, this is plagiarism. Generally, a mark of zero is awarded if there is evidence of such misconduct.

Students are encouraged to use short quotations from published works by other people in their work but these must be cited using an appropriate academic referencing system – the lecturer will give you guidance on this topic.

Use of Generative AI:

University policy (Section 5.3) allows for individual Schools to have additional academic requirements. Scoil Léann na Gaeilge/*The School of Irish Learning* and its constituent Departments (Béaloideas/*Folklore and Ethnology*; Nua-Ghaeilge/*Modern Irish*; and Sean- agus Meán-Ghaeilge/*Early and Medieval Irish*) do not permit the use of Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, or any similar LLMs (Large Language Models) in any way, which includes but is not limited to using it as a tool for doing research or for the completion of an assignment. In addition, the use of GenAI and software tools such as Grammarly are not allowed for editing, proofing, or rewriting of an essay in preparation for final submission. Furthermore, students may not use translation tools such as Google Translate when writing essays and other tasks. Work produced, corrected, formatted or translated by such software programmes will not be awarded marks.

As Humanities students, a central part of your education is learning to read and write critically, to use language correctly and grammatically, to think independently and to learn how to research effectively. Using a tool such as ChatGPT to research and write assignments (instead of researching and writing it yourself), or utilising software such as Google Translate to translate assessments and essays into Irish prevents learning and development and, as such, constitutes a serious obstacle to the attainment of the aims of a degree in the Humanities. Such usages, therefore, are strictly forbidden and will be treated as cases of Major Academic Misconduct. Utilising Grammarly to assist in the writing of essays is also not allowed and will be treated as a case of Minor Academic Misconduct.

What happens if a student breaches Academic Integrity?

We have safeguards in place to protect the integrity of our assignments. Those submitted through Canvas are checked by Turnitin, which is an academic integrity service and plagiarism detector. Your assignments are marked by academics who are experts in their fields. When a member of staff has concerns about an assignment, they will consult with the Academic Integrity officers in the School. They will determine if the matter merits further consideration and if it is a case of:

- Level 1: Poor Academic Practice
- Level 2: Minor Academic Misconduct
- Level 3: Major Academic Misconduct.

The penalties involved may include:

- Students must complete Academic Integrity and Fundamentals Course
- Student may be placed on the Academic Misconduct Register
- Student receives a mark of zero for the assignment where misconduct is found.

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

Provisional and Subject to Change

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10		CC2006 ORB 145 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</i>		CC2013 ORB 156 <i>Dr Nina Cnockaert-Guillou</i>	
10-11				CC1112 Kane G02 <i>Dr Fionnán Mac Gabhann</i>	
11-12		CC2006 ORB G20 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</i>		CC3011 Kane G20 <i>Dr John Carey</i>	
12-1	CC3006 West Wing 8 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>		CC1112 Kane G18 <i>Dr Fionnán Mac Gabhann</i>		
1-2		CC3014 ORB 145 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>	CC2013 ORB G20 <i>Dr Nina Cnockaert-Guillou</i>	CC3011 ORB 101 <i>Dr John Carey</i>	
2-3	CC1100 ORB 156 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>			CC2250 ORB 212 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</i>	
3-4	CC1100 West Wing 6 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>	CC3006 West Wing 7 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>		CC2007 West Wing 9 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</i>	
4-5		CC3014 West Wing 8 <i>Dr Emmet Taylor</i>		CC2007 West Wing 9 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</i>	
5-6			CC2250 West Wing 6 <i>Dr Jo Wolf</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
 CC2011 Gender, Image and Identity in Medieval Ireland

CC2013 The Finn Cycle
 CC3006 Irish Historical Tales
 CC3011 Early Irish II
 CC3014 Early Irish Spirituality