

Celtic Civilisation

First Year 2026-27

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: EMI@ucc.ie

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.

WELCOME TO FIRST YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION AT UCC!

Celtic Civilisation offers you a broad 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 and the 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, while focusing on Cú Chulainn and his storyworld.

Modules in year 2 provide close readings of tales of the greatest Irish saints, and of the hero Fionn mac Cumhaill 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 the Early Irish language and to learn how to decipher medieval manuscripts.

FIRST YEAR BA

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.

TIMETABLE

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.

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 DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME CATALOGUE

MARKS AND STANDARDS

Book of Modules: <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/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 indicates 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 are published in **Marks and Standards**. The Marks and Standards for First Year of undergraduate, CAO-entry programmes are published in the Marks and Standard tab of that programme's entry in the Academic Programme Catalogue.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

All lectures and tutorials occur in person, and students must ensure that they are able to attend all classes. Attendance is an irreplaceable part of module delivery, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are present at all lectures, classes, tutorials and all other teaching elements of their programme. There is a clear correlation between regular attendance and academic performance.

MODULE INFORMATION

CC1111 THE ANCIENT CELTS

5 credits, Autumn and Spring Semesters

Module Content:

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.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Outline the history of the Celtic peoples from the earliest evidence to the insular migrations;
- Discuss how the Celts were viewed by Classical authors and how contact with the Roman world ultimately led to the demise of the Continental Celts;
- Show an understanding of the diverse range of sources for the period including archaeological, historical and linguistic evidence.

Lecturers: Dr Cairtriona Ó Dochartaigh c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie

Timetable: One lecture per week in **Semesters 1 and 2**
Mondays 3pm – 4pm (West Wing 6)

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*

CC1113 CELTIC LITERATURE

5 credits, Autumn Semester

Module Content:

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.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Outline the corpus of medieval Celtic literature;
- Examine and assess the early heroic literature of the Celtic countries;
- Contextualise this literature within the societies that created it;
- Discuss the literature and the manuscript sources in detail;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the themes of early heroic literature, e.g. the warrior ethos, the role of women, kingship, etc.

Lecturer: Dr Emmet Taylor emmet.taylor@ucc.ie

Timetable: Two lectures per week 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: Cecile O’Rahilly, *Táin bó Cúalnge: from the Book of Leinster*; Jeffrey Gantz, *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*.

CC1112 CELTIC RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY

5 credits, Spring Semester

Module Content:

The religious beliefs of the pre-Christian Celtic world, with a specific emphasis on Ireland. 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.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Compare the testimony of Classical authors with later sources from the Insular world;
- Outline the surviving evidence for the cults of pre-Christian gods and goddesses in Ireland;
- Describe the role of pre-Christian tradition in medieval Irish society;
- Evaluate both the strengths and the limitations of the relevant sources.

Lecturer: Dr Emmet Taylor emmet.taylor@ucc.ie

Timetable: Two lectures per week 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*; John Carey, *The Mythological Cycle*.

FIRST YEAR TUTORIALS

One tutorial per week to be arranged at the beginning of Semester 1. This one-hour tutorial will cover material from all the above modules. When selecting a tutorial, it is the responsibility of the student to avoid timetable clashes and to ensure that the timetable is feasible for them across both semesters.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CHANGE OF SUBJECT

Changes to First Year BA subjects will be allowed, provided subject prerequisites are met, **up to four weeks** after the start of Semester 1, see SREO website for more details.

The online facility (through [MyStudentAdmin](#)) for making changes to subjects will be open for the first two weeks of Semester 1.

Subsequent changes must be processed through the Student Records and Examinations Office (SREO), West Wing, UCC. For further assistance, please contact the relevant department directly.

LATE REGISTRATION

It is the student's responsibility to contact the programme director and 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. The student email account is the primary means of communication for fees, exams, registration details, etc. The Department of Early and Medieval Irish and the School of Irish Learning will also use your student email to share important updates and information about your programme. To make sure you don't miss anything important, please check your student email account regularly.

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. A Canvas account will automatically be created for students within a day or two of completing UCC's student registration process.

UCC'S STUDENT RULES & STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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

STUDENT SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

<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/pdfx27sampbookmarks/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@uemail.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 CERTIFICATES

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

- 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 exams/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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FOR CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENTS POLICY

This policy sets out UCC's definition of academic integrity regarding continuous assessments; details forms of academic misconduct; signposts the supports available to staff and students; outlines the procedures for investigating alleged cases of academic misconduct in continuous assessments; and explains sanctions for academic misconduct and the register for recording those sanctions. For full details, see:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicgov/policies/standards/academicintegrityforcontinuousassessments/>

- *Students are obliged to uphold academic integrity and adhere to this 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 examples listed in Section 3 of the above-mentioned Policy. Examples include cheating, contract cheating/essay mills, poor academic practice, impersonation, cumulative effect, fabrication/falsification, plagiarism, and the unauthorised Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools.*
- *Students are responsible for completing academic integrity training or any other skills development when directed 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.*
- *Prior to submitting any piece of work, each student should confirm any assessment statements to acknowledge that they are aware of their obligations regarding academic integrity and plagiarism under this Policy and confirm that they have not engaged in academic misconduct.*

Plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence:

When you submit an essay or written work to the Department, 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 (an essay by another student, a published text, notes or slides provided by the lecturer, etc), this is plagiarism. Generally, a mark of zero is awarded if there is evidence of plagiarism.

In some cases, students are allowed to use short quotations from published works by other people in their work, but these must be cited using an academic referencing system – the lecturer will give you guidance on this topic.

Students may not use AI-writing software or translation tools including Google Translate and ChatGPT when writing essays and other tasks. Work produced by such software programmes will not be awarded marks.

MITIGATION

UCC's Mitigation process exists to support students if they encounter unexpected circumstances that impact on their ability to prepare for or to sit an examination.

A successful mitigation application will waive the capping of the 40% mark for the Autumn Supplemental Examination.

Further details and application form is available on the SREO website:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/student-records/exams/appeal-mitigation-recheck/mitigation/>

AUTUMN SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATIONS

Students who fail modules in Semester 1 (Winter) or Semester 2 (Summer) and do not qualify for compensation under their programme's pass and progression rules (as detailed in Marks and Standards) will automatically be registered to repeat these examinations at the Supplemental Examination session.

- Supplemental exam and assessment details are included for each module in the Book of Modules.
- Pass and Progression rules are outlined in Marks and Standards.

Information on the Supplemental Examinations, including when the Supplemental Written Examinations Timetable will be released, is sent to the student's UCC email address in July. See <https://www.ucc.ie/en/student-records/exams/>.

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).

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE 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, Block A, Ground Floor,
O'Rahilly Building,
University College Cork,
Cork, Ireland.

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

Email: EMI@ucc.ie

TERM DATES FOR FIRST YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION

Week Numbers 2026/2027		
Week Start	Syllabus Plus Week	
SEMESTER 1		
14/09/2026	7	14 September 2026: Start of the Academic year - first years students
21/09/2026	8	
28/09/2026	9	
05/10/2026	10	
12/10/2026	11	
19/10/2026	12	
26/10/2026	13	26 October 2026 - October Bank Holiday Monday
02/11/2026	14	
09/11/2026	15	
16/11/2026	16	
23/11/2026	17	
30/11/2026	18	Last week of Semester 1 lectures - first year students
Study/Review		
07/12/2026	19	Study Review Week - first year students.
Exams		
14/12/2026	20	Exams for first year students: 14 - 17 December
Christmas Recess (three weeks)		
21/12/2026	21	
28/12/2026	22	
04/01/2027	23	
SEMESTER 2		
11/01/2027	24	Lectures begin for all students
18/01/2027	25	
25/01/2027	26	
01/02/2027	27	1 February 2027 - B/H Monday - St. Brigid's Day
08/02/2027	28	
15/02/2027	29	
22/02/2027	30	
01/03/2027	31	
08/03/2026	32	
15/03/2027	33	17 March 2027 - B/H Wednesday - St. Patrick's Day

<i>Easter Recess (two weeks)</i>		
22/03/2027	34	Good Friday on 26/03/27
29/03/2027	35	Easter Monday 29/03/27
SEMESTER 2 (continued)		
05/04/2027	36	
12/04/2027	37	Last week of Semester 2 lectures
<i>Study/Review</i>		
19/04/2027	38	
26/04/2027	39	Exams start 30/04/27
<i>Exams - Exams Start on the 30 April 2027</i>		
03/05/2027	40	May Bank Holiday Monday
10/05/2027	41	Exams finish on 14 May 2027
<i>Start of Autumn Supplemental Examinations: 30/07/2027</i>		
<i>End of Autumn Supplemental Examinations: 13/08/2027</i>		

All of the above dates are provisional and subject to change