

Celtic Civilisation

Second 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

Second Year 2026-27

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

CC2002 Celtic Saints

(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*.

CC2003 Exile and Longing: Early Celtic Lyric Poetry

(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 earliest vernacular literature in Europe through a close reading of particular poems. The first third of the module comprises (a) a study of the historical context of the arrival of literacy to Ireland with the coming of Christianity; (b) a chronological study of the earliest manuscript sources for Irish and Welsh literature from the 6th century to the 15th; and (c) a study of the origins, traits, training and development of the poet in Ireland and Wales, and the effects of the arrival of Christianity in Ireland on the kind of poetry practised by the poet. The second part of the module comprises a study of a selection of early poems in Old Irish and Old and Middle Welsh. The emphasis in this study is on the salient themes that are readily identifiable in these texts such as monastic life, love, loss, exile, longing, companionship, love of nature and the onset of age.

Timetable: Semester 1

Tuesdays 11am-12noon (ORB G20) & Thursdays 3pm – 4pm (ORB 212)

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

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

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 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.

CC2007 The Celtic Languages

(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 – 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*.

CC2011 Gender, Image and Identity in Medieval Ireland

(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

Tuesdays 9am – 10am (ORB 156) & Thursdays 4pm – 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*.

CC2013 The Finn Cycle

(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 201)

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*.

CC2010 Directed Study in Medieval Celtic Culture

(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.

Staff members are Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh (c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie) Dr Emma Nic Cárthaigh (emma.niccarthaigh@ucc.ie), Dr Emmet Taylor (emmet.taylor@ucc.ie), Dr Jo D'Ambrosio-Wolf (jwolf@ucc.ie), Professor John Carey (j.carey@ucc.ie) [Head of Department] and Professor Kevin Murray (k.murray@ucc.ie).

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

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/smg/people/>

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate contact with a potential supervisor at the outset of the research project, maintain regular contact with the supervisor and to take responsibility for the progress of the work.

Please email EMI@ucc.ie with your supervisor's name before 5th October 2026. 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 12noon on Friday 19 March 2027.

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

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 in the Academic Programme Catalogue are outlined in the publication called the **Marks and Standards**.

Academic Programme for BA (Hons) Degree – Celtic Civilisation

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/>

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

CHANGE OF MODULES

You can change your elective modules online at 'MyStudentAdmin' portal up to two weeks after the start of each semester. After this deadline, any module changes must be approved by your academic unit. In such cases, the academic unit will complete a Change of Module Request Form and submit it directly to the Student Records and Examinations Office for processing.

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. As this is the University's recognised and official method of communication with students, it is important that your email account is checked regularly. Important information relating to fees, examinations, registration, and other administrative and academic matters will be sent to this account. The Department of Early and Medieval Irish also uses this email address for departmental communications. Students are therefore expected to monitor their University email account on a regular basis.

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/pdfx27samphookmarks/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 Paper 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

- 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 EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

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.

Students are allowed to quote from published works by other people in their own 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 completing 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).

2026/27 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER 1/ AUTUMN SEMESTER

Provisional and Subject to Change

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10		CC2011 O'Rahilly Building 156 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		CC2002 Boole 6 <i>Jo Wolf</i>	
10-11					
11-12		CC2003 O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Caitriona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>			
12-1					
1-2				CC2002 O'Rahilly Building 202 <i>Jo Wolf</i>	
2-3					
3-4				CC2003 O'Rahilly Building 212 <i>Caitriona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>	
4-5				CC2011 O'Rahilly Building 212 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
5-6					

CC2002 Celtic Saints

CC2003 Exile and Longing: Early Celtic Lyric Poetry

CC2011 Gender, Image and Identity in Medieval Ireland

2026/27 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

Provisional and Subject to Change

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10		CC2006 O'Rahilly Building 145 <i>Jo Wolf</i>		CC2013 O'Rahilly Building 201 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
10-11					
11-12		CC2006 O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Jo Wolf</i>			
12-1					
1-2			CC2013 O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		
2-3					
3-4				CC2007 West Wing 9 <i>Jo Wolf</i>	
4-5				CC2007 West Wing 9 <i>Jo Wolf</i>	
5-6					

CC2006 Learning and Society in the Celtic Countries

CC2007 The Celtic Languages

CC2013 The Finn Cycle