

Celtic Civilisation

Third 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

Third Year 2026-27

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

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

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 123) & 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 of the Hundred Battles (Conn Cétchathach), 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)

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 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 recommended word count for the CC3009 project is 3,500-4,000 words. Please be advised that the submission end date for the CC3009 project is 12noon on Wednesday 14 April 2027.

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 202) & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (Kane G06)
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 (Pharmacy Building LG08) & 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 (West Wing 5) & Thursday 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: <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

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).

Note

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/>

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/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@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: 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 FSB 322 <i>John Carey</i>	
12-1	CC3010 ORB 255 <i>Marie-Luise</i> <i>Theuerkauf</i>				
1-2		CC3010 O'Rahilly Building 145 <i>Marie-Luise</i> <i>Theuerkauf</i>	CC3001 O'Rahilly Building G20 <i>John Carey</i>		
2-3					
3-4		CC3003 O'Rahilly Building 123 <i>Jo Wolf</i>			
4-5	CC3013 Food Science Building 322 <i>Caitríona Ó</i> <i>Dochartaigh</i>	CC3003 O'Rahilly Building 202 <i>Jo Wolf</i>			
5-6	CC3013 Food Science Building 322 <i>Caitríona 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

2026/27 TIMETABLE

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10					
10-11					
11-12				CC3014 West Wing 5 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
12-1	CC3006 West Wing 8 <i>Jo Wolf</i>				
1-2		CC3011 ORB 202 <i>Emma Nic</i> <i>Cárthaigh</i>		CC3014 O'Rahilly Building 101 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
2-3					
3-4		CC3006 West Wing 7 <i>Jo Wolf</i>			
4-5		CC3011 Kane G06 <i>Emma Nic</i> <i>Cárthaigh</i>			
5-6					

CC3006 Irish Historical Tales
CC3011 Early Irish II

CC3014 Early Irish Spirituality