Celtic Civilisation

First Year 2023-24

Roinn na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Department of Early and Medieval Irish

University College Cork

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, innovative 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 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 ideology 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 the connections between the various Gaelic peoples of these islands, and medieval Irish spirituality, 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.

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 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.

Lecturer: Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh   c.odochartaigh@ucc.ie

Timetable: One lecture per week in **Semesters 1 and 2**

Semester 1:   Mondays 3pm – 4pm (Boole 1)
Semester 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 Kevin Murray   k.murray@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: J. Gantz, *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*; M. Dillon, *Early Irish Literature*; M. Ní Bhrolcháin, *An Introduction to Early Irish Literature*; *The Táin* (the translations by T. Kinsella, C. Carson or C. O'Rahilly may be used).

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:	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*; Proinsias Mac Cana, *Celtic Mythology*

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.

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**. These contain 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**.

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 | Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

TERM DATES FOR FIRST YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION

Weeks Start	Syllabus Plus Week	Term	Holidays
18/09/2023	7	**Semester 1 commencement for 1st Years**	
25/09/2023	8		
02/10/2023	9		
09/10/2023	10		
16/10/2023	11		
23/10/2023	12		
30/10/2023	13		October Bank Holiday Monday
06/11/2023	14		
13/11/2023	15		
20/11/2023	16		
27/11/2023	17	**Last week of Semester 1**	
04/12/2023	18	**Study Review**	Exams start 08/12/23
11/12/2023	19	**Exams**	
18/12/2023	20	**Exams**	
25/12/2023	21	**Christmas Recess**	
01/01/2024	22	**Christmas Recess**	
08/01/2024	23		
15/01/2024	24	**Semester 2 commencement**	
22/01/2024	25		
29/01/2024	26		
05/02/2024	27		Bank Holiday Monday St Brigids Day
12/02/2024	28		
19/02/2024	29		
26/02/2024	30		
04/03/2024	31		
11/03/2024	32		
18/03/2024	33		B/H Monday - St. Patrick's Day
25/03/2024	34	**Easter Recess**	Good Friday 29/03/24
01/04/2024	35	**Easter Recess**	Easter Monday
08/04/2024	36		
15/04/2024	37	**Last week of Semester 2**	
22/04/2024	38	**Study Review**	Exams start 26/04/24
29/04/2024	39	**Exams**	
06/05/2024	40	**Exams**	May Bank Holiday Monday

All of the above dates are provisional and subject to change