



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

Celtic Civilisation

International Students 2023-24

**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: EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie | Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

Celtic Civilisation

Celtic Civilisation offers a broad new 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 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.

Modes of Teaching Delivery for Academic Year 2023-24

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.

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.

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.15 a.m.-1.00 p.m. and 2.15 p.m.-5.00 p.m.

Telephone: +353-21-4903360

Email: EarlyandMedievalIrish@ucc.ie

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

Follow us on Twitter: @uccsmghaeilge

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 violent 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%)

SPRING /SEMESTER 2 MODULES

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. 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 – 4pm (West Wing 9) & Thursdays 4pm – 5pm (West Wing 7)

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 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 212)

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 Cétchathach (Conn of the Hundred Battles), 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

Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm (ORB 145) & Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm (West Wing 8)
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

Thursdays 11am – 12noon (Kane G20) & Thursdays 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

Full module descriptions are contained in the Modules for Visiting Students 2023/2024 which is available on the web at <https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/modules-visiting-student/>

SEMESTER 2/ SPRING SEMESTER

Provisional and Subject to Change

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10		CC2006 ORB 145 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		CC2013 ORB 212 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
10-11				CC1112 Kane G02 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	
11-12		CC2006 ORB G20 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		CC3014 Kane G20 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
12-1	CC3006 West Wing 8 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		CC1112 Kane G18 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		
1-2		CC3011 ORB 145 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>	CC2013 ORB G20 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>	CC3014 ORB 101 <i>Prof John Carey</i>	
2-3	CC1100 ORB 156 <i>Dr Caitriona Ó Dochartaigh</i>			CC2250 ORB 212 <i>Tyler Baxter</i>	
3-4	CC1100 West Wing 6 <i>Dr Caitriona Ó Dochartaigh</i>	CC3006 West Wing 7 <i>Emmet Taylor</i>		CC2007 West Wing 9 <i>Tyler Baxter</i>	
4-5		CC3011 West Wing 8 <i>Dr Kevin Murray</i>		CC2007 West Wing 7 <i>Tyler Baxter</i>	
5-6			CC2250 West Wing 6 <i>Tyler Baxter</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