



Celtic Civilisation – Subject Introductory Information

Introduction

Welcome to Celtic Civilisation!

What is Celtic Civilisation?

- Celtic Civilisation is the study of the legacy of the Celts in the world, from the 6th century BC when we first encounter them in the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans, right down to perceptions and beliefs about the Celts which prevail in modern times. As part of this study, we examine the formation of the peoples and nations of Ireland, Northern and Western Britain and France during the early Middle Ages and consider aspects of the representations of Celts in early-modern and modern western Europe. In short, Celtic Civilisation examines the history, archaeology, languages, literatures, mythologies and cultures of the Celts through the centuries.

What are the main themes of the Programme?

- The main themes that will be covered over the three years of the programme (four years if you apply for the Erasmus+ programme to study abroad) are the history of the Celtic-speaking peoples, medieval Irish and Welsh literature, medieval Irish language and modern Welsh language studies, society and social institutions and the cultural impact of Christianity on Ireland in the medieval period, comparative-historical linguistics, modern-day conceptions and mis-conceptions about the Celts, Celtic mythology, religion and folklore, and literary culture in Ireland and Scotland.

What will I study in First Year?

- The first year of the Celtic Civilisation programme will introduce you to the early and medieval history of the Celts on the islands of Ireland and Britain, and on the continent. You will study four distinct modules (a total of 20 ECTS) as a BA student. The first module (SG111) will examine the evidence on the continent of interactions and encounters with the Celts and will also outline key events in Ireland and Britain during the early and medieval periods. Two modules (SG1100 and SG1101) will introduce students to Celtic literature in the medieval period and will provide a grounding for students in the key texts, places, and characters associated with this early literature. One further module (SG116) in the second semester of first year, examines the mythology and folklore associated with Celts, interpretations of which are still found today.

Why might I decide to study this subject?

- You might decide to study this subject if you have prior interest in the Celts and in the history, archaeology, languages, literatures, and cultures of the islands of Ireland and Britain. Students of history, archaeology, classics, languages and society will all find something of interest among the module choices available to students of Celtic Civilisation. If you are interested in creative writing, much of our early literature boasts similar themes and tropes still found in modern writing. If you're interested in what was written on this island since the earliest times, this subject will give you a firm grounding in the linguistic, literary, and cultural heritage of Ireland.

What other subjects can I study alongside Celtic Civilisation?

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- While you must choose another two subjects to study alongside this subject, you may not choose Law or Psychology due to the subject groupings (designed to facilitate timetabling). Many students who have previously studied with us have also studied History, Archaeology, Classics, Gaeilge (Irish), Creative Writing, Sociological and Political Studies.

Will this subject be similar to anything I have studied at second level?

- You may find some aspects of this programme will relate to topics you have already studied at second level, particularly if you have studied History, Gaeilge (Irish), and English, but also if you have studied Latin and/or Classical Studies for your Leaving Certificate. Much of what you will learn, will be new, and will differ in both the type of content and the teaching approach to what you experienced at second level.

How does this subject relate to current events in society?

- As this subject encompasses history, archaeology, language, literature, mythology and culture, it will provide you with a broad basis from which to deepen your understanding of, and engagement with, current events related to cultural identity and Inter-cultural awareness, issues of conflict and migration, politics, society, and the legacy of ancient cultures and their lingering effects on society today.

Structure of the Programme

- The table below provides an outline of the overall programme structure for first, second, and final year, including the modules available in First Year:

First Year:

Semester 1	Semester 2
SG1100 Medieval Celtic Literature A [5 ECTS]	
SG1101 Medieval Celtic Literature B [5 ECTS]	
SG111 Early & Medieval History of the Celts [5 ECTS]	SG116 Celtic Mythology, Religion & Folklore [5 ECTS]

Second Year:

Semester 1 [15 ECTS]	Semester 2 [15 ECTS]
SG215 Medieval Irish Literature c.700-1100 [5 ECTS]	SG217 'A Field of Gods & Men': Ancient Celtic Myths [5 ECTS]
SG216 The Stories of Medieval Wales [5 ECTS]	SG219 The Celtic Languages in the Modern World [5 ECTS]
SG221 Medieval Irish Language I [5 ECTS]	SG220 King Arthur and the Holy Grail [5 ECTS]
SG223 Society and Social Institutions in the Celtic-speaking West [5 ECTS]	SG222 Medieval Irish Language II [5 ECTS]
*Alternatively, students may choose two of the modules listed above plus one module from five approved modules offered by the disciplines of Archaeology, Classics, or History.	*Alternatively, students may choose two of the modules listed above, plus one additional module from three approved modules offered by the disciplines of Archaeology and Classics.

Final Year:

Semester 1 [15 ECTS]	Semester 2 [15 ECTS]
SG311 The Invention of the Celt: Concepts and Perspectives [5 ECTS]	SG316 The Celtic Languages and their Relatives [5 ECTS]
SG313 The Poetry of Medieval Wales c. 600-1100 [5 ECTS]	SG320 Medieval Women in the Celtic-Speaking West [5 ECTS]
SG3100 The Cultural Impact of Christianity on Ireland [5 ECTS]	SG3101 Poets, Patrons & Propaganda [5 ECTS]

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SG317 Medieval Irish Language III [5 ECTS]	SG319 Medieval Irish Language IV [5 ECTS]
SG318 Research Project [5 ECTS]	*Alternatively, students may choose two of the modules listed above plus one module from four approved modules offered by the disciplines of Archaeology, Classics, or English.
*Alternatively, students may choose two of the modules listed above plus one module from three approved modules offered by the disciplines of Archaeology or Classics.	

- Further information including descriptions of each module can be found on the discipline webpage: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilge/celtic-civilisation/>

Online Learning and Teaching

- Due to the ongoing global pandemic, taught programmes at NUI Galway for the Academic Year 2020/21 will be delivered in a hybrid of online and on-campus classes. Smaller classes may be delivered on-campus where it is possible and safe to do so.
- Lectures will take place on-campus (if room capacity allows). If student registration for a module exceeds room capacity, alternative arrangements will be activated for online/hybrid delivery. All tutorials will take place online from Week 3 of the semester.
- Treat online learning as you would any regular class. Be on time, be prepared, participate in any activities, and be in touch with your lecturers or the First Year Coordinator if you're having any difficulties.
- When on-campus, please follow the Covid-19 public health guidelines and hand-washing etiquette to help protect the campus and wider community.

Assessments

- Assessment of the First Year Celtic Civilisation programme for the academic year of 2020-2021 will be by continuous assessment/essay. You will access reading materials online via the module *Blackboard* page or using the Library's 'Click & Collect' service.
- Assessments will examine your level of understanding of, and engagement with, the core readings and secondary literature as outlined in your module reading lists. Individual lecturers are best placed to advise on approaches to preparing for assessments in their respective modules.

Live Introductory Question and Answer Session

- The Live Introductory Lecture and Question and Answer Session will introduce you to the subject area of Celtic Civilisation, and discuss the overall programme, the modules available, the teaching approach for the current academic year, and answer any questions you might have about the subject.
- There are two sessions. One on Wednesday, 23 September from 1-2pm, and another on Friday, 25 September from 2-3pm.

Important Links

- Discipline Webpage: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/gaeilge/celtic-civilisation/>