



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Roinn na Gaeilge

Celtic Civilisation

Final Year Modules

Course Outlines

2024-25

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Graham Isaac, Room 105, *Áras na Gaeilge*,
Extension 2550 (Tel. 49 2550)

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/language-literatures-culture/disciplines/roinn-na-hollscolaiochta-gaeilge/celtic-civilisation/>

Celtic Civilisation, *ROINN NA GAEILGE*
in collaboration with Archaeology, Classics, History

Departmental Office

Room 215, *Roinn na Gaeilge (Áras na Gaeilge)*

Departmental SECRETARY

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LECTURERS IN ROINN NA GAEILGE

Dr. Graham Isaac

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Dr. Liam Ó hAisibéil

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Room 117, *Áras na Gaeilge* Tel. 492578

For lecturers' details on modules from Archaeology, Classics, English and History, please consult the relevant discipline's web pages.

Academic Calendar 2024-25

First Semester

Teaching begins	Monday 9th September 2024
Teaching ends	Friday 29th November 2024
Study Week*	Monday 2nd December – Friday 6th December 2024
Examinations begin	Monday 9th December 2024
Examinations end	Friday 20th December 2024

Second Semester

Teaching begins	Monday 13th January 2025
Teaching ends	Friday 4th April 2025
Easter	Good Friday 18th April – Easter Monday 21st April
Study Week*	Friday 11th April – Thursday 17th April 2025
Examinations begin	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Examinations end	Friday 9th May 2025

*Alert Notice to Visiting Students

- Visiting Students should note that some Examinations may be scheduled during Study Week and therefore students should not make travel arrangements during or around these weeks.**
- Visiting Students registering for Semester 1 (Fall) only may not select modules that are offered across the entire year.**



Celtic Civilisation Final Year Programme

3/4BA = 30 ECTS

Three modules, 15 ECTS, in Semester I.

Three modules, 15 ECTS in Semester II.

In each semester, students will take **EITHER** three modules from Group A **OR** two modules from Group A and one from Group B.

Semester I **Group A**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
SG313	The Poetry of Medieval Wales c. 600-1100	5	Essay
SG3100	The Cultural Impact of Christianity on Ireland	5	Essay
SG3103	Poets and Patrons: Gaelic Literature c. 1100-1600	5	CA
SG318	Research Project	5	Long Essay

Group B

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
AR3100	Metal, Warfare and Chieftoms – The Bronze Age Roots of European Civilization	5	Essay
CC316	Barbarians	5	Essay
CC230	Beginning Latin 1	5	CA

Semester II **Group A**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
SG316	The Celtic Languages and their Relatives	5	Essay
SG320	Medieval Women in the Celtic-Speaking West	5	Essay
SG3102	Celtic Onomastics	5	CA

Group B

<i>Code</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
AR3101	Landscape and Archaeology: Context and Practice	5	Essay
CCS307	Ireland and the Ancient World	5	Exam
CC232	Beginning Latin 2	5	CA

NB: It is not possible to guarantee that no timetable clashes occur between the lectures taken from various departments. When choosing modules from Group B, please check before final registration that your timetable does not include clashes.

ROINN NA GAELGE
FINAL YEAR CELTIC CIVILISATION, 2024-25
TIMETABLE
GROUP A MODULES

For Group B Modules, please consult with the relevant department, Archaeology or Classics.

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Monday, 3-4pm SG3100 The Cultural Impact of Christianity Lecturer: Chris Doyle Venue: AC 214 (Arts Concourse)	Monday, 3-4pm SG320 Women in the Celtic-speaking West Lecturer: TBC + Graham Isaac Venue: CA 001 (Áras Cairnes)
Monday, 4-5pm SG313 Poetry of Medieval Wales Lecturer: Graham Isaac Venue: CA 115 (Áras Cairnes)	Tuesday, 4-5pm SG3102 Celtic Onomastics Lecturer: Liam Ó hAisibéil Venue: CSB 1002
Tuesday, 2-3pm SG3103 Poets and Patrons Lecturer: Liam Ó hAisibéil Venue: TB 307	Wednesday, 4-5pm SG316 Celtic Languages & their Relatives Lecturer: Graham Isaac Venue: AMB-G005 (Arts Millennium)
Wednesday, 11-12am SG3100 The Cultural Impact of Christianity Lecturer: Chris Doyle Venue: AMB-G005 (Arts Millennium)	Thursday, 2-3pm SG3102 Celtic Onomastics Lecturer: Liam Ó hAisibéil Venue: TB 307
Wednesday, 5-6pm SG313 Poetry of Medieval Wales Lecturer: Graham Isaac Venue: CSB 1002	Friday, 11-12pm SG320 Women in the Celtic-speaking West Lecturer: TBC + Graham Isaac Venue: AMB-G008 (Arts Millennium)
Thursday, 2-3pm SG3103 Poets and Patrons Lecturer: Liam Ó hAisibéil Venue: TB 302	Friday, 1-2pm SG316 Celtic Languages & their Relatives Lecturer: Graham Isaac Venue: AMB-G012 (Arts Millennium)

While every effort is made to ensure that all information is correct, issues can always arise with respect to staffing and/or size of room allocation, etc., which require later amendments to the timetable.

Semester I

SG3103 Poets and Patrons: Gaelic Literature c. 1100-1600

Lecturer **Liam Ó hAisibéil**

This module investigates literary culture and its production in the Gaelic world during the late-medieval and early-modern periods, from c.1100-1600. We will start by reviewing the literary corpus that existed in Ireland before the arrival of the Normans, looking at the structure, genres, and typical content of this literature and considering the relationship between this literature and the Irish church in light of church reform in the Norman period. The twelfth century in Ireland witnessed the changeover from monastic to secular schools, a new professionalization of poetry-making, and the perfecting of syllabic metres which had been in use for some 500 years. By examining a selection of poems from this period (in translation), we will have the opportunity to learn about these poets, their training, their motivations for composing poetry and have insight into their relationship with their patrons. In addition to the poetry of this period, we will also examine narrative literature from the period of c.1100-1600, focusing on a key prosimetric text known as *Acallam na Senórach* (Tales of the Elders of Ireland), arguably one of the greatest extant narratives in the Irish literary tradition. We will explore the background of this text and analyse and interpret the structure, themes, and possible functions of this text. The *Acallam* represents perhaps the high point of Gaelic literary culture before Norman influence becomes pervasive

Learning outcomes:

- Evaluate a selection of works from the Gaelic literary tradition that are ascribed to the period c. 1100-1600.
- Summarise the issues associated with the production of literary works during this period, such as: manuscript production and contents; the education and training of scribes and poets; scribal and poetic schools and learned families; and forms of patronage.
- Identify political, historical, and continental influences which affected literary production in the Gaelic world.
- Critique, both orally and in writing, responses to this literature from your peers and from other scholars.

SG3100 The Cultural Impact of Christianity on Ireland

Lecturer **Chris Doyle**

This module will examine some of the cultural consequences of the coming of Christianity to medieval Ireland, especially in the area of reading and writing. Among the topics covered will be the early history of Christianity in Ireland, the earliest writings from the Celtic-speaking world, religious literature in Irish and Latin, the contribution of the Irish to Christianity and learning abroad, and the impact of Christianity and the new learning on Irish vernacular culture.

Learning outcomes:

- Knowledge of religious attitudes in medieval Ireland.
- Knowledge of the literary sources for the religious ideas and practices in medieval Ireland.
- Knowledge of the early history of Christianity in medieval Ireland.
- Knowledge of the ways in which Christianity differed from, influenced and was influenced by, Christianity amongst neighbouring medieval cultures.
- An appreciation of the close connection between the coming of Christianity and the spread of literacy, especially in the case of Ireland which never formed part of the Roman Empire.

SG313 The Poetry of Medieval Wales c. 600 – 1100

Lecturer **Graham Isaac**

In the period 600 – 1100, Wales experienced a flowering of poetic expression which formed the traditional basis for the continuation of the Welsh love of, and skill in, poetry in the subsequent centuries and down to the present day. The earliest Welsh poetry reflects significant aspects of the culture, history and thought of the time, from the politics of rule to the delicate relationship between humans beings and nature, from the ethics of war to the potential loneliness of old age. This module will explore how the earliest surviving Welsh poems represent and express the hopes and fears, the brutality and tenderness, the knowledge and the propaganda, of an early medieval society.

Learning outcomes:

- Detailed knowledge of the themes and structure of medieval Welsh Poetry.
- Appreciation of the beauty and variety of medieval Welsh poetry.
- Ability to deal critically with a medieval poetic tradition quite different from modern poetic expectations and practice.
- Understanding of the value of medieval Welsh poetry as a source of information on the mental and emotional world of the early medieval Welsh.

SG318 Research Project

An essay of about 5,000 words on a topic of relevance to Celtic Civilisation chosen by the student in consultation with the lecturers.

Learning outcomes:

- Ability to formulate extended arguments on a detailed analysis of some material.
- Ability to research a topic extensively over a longer time than for a usual undergraduate essay.
- Preparation for writing theses at postgraduate level.

For descriptions of all Group B Modules, please consult with the relevant department, Archaeology, Classics or English.

Semester II

SG316 The Celtic Languages and their Relatives

Lecturer **Graham Isaac**

The Celtic languages form a language family that includes not only the languages of medieval and modern Ireland, Britain and Brittany, but also several ancient languages of France, Spain, Italy and even Turkey. And this family of languages is part of a wider family, Indo-European, that encompasses hundreds of languages throughout Europe and Asia and, by now, through historically recent expansions, many other parts of the world. This module will show the student how the known Celtic languages are related to each other, including looking in detail at some of our sources for the ancient Celtic languages, and will provide an introduction to the methods by which we show how languages from Galway to Kolkata, from Inverness to Tehran, are all derived from a single original language spoken around six thousand years ago.

Learning outcomes:

- Detailed knowledge of the ways the Celtic languages are related to each other as a coherent language family.
- Detailed knowledge of the place of the Celtic languages in the Indo-European language family.
- Appreciation of the information to be gained from sources for the ancient Continental Celtic languages.
- Knowledge of the methods and results of comparative-historical linguistics.

SG320 Medieval Women in the Celtic-Speaking West

Lecturers **TBC + Graham Isaac**

The first section of SG320 (weeks 1-6) will focus on medieval Irish evidence about the lives and literary representations of women, introducing students to a range of legal and literary sources which can allow us to investigate the status, position and agency of women in early Irish society and culture. An overview of the extant sources for the socio-legal position of women will be given, and close reading of a variety of literary texts will help to provide a nuanced view of the relationship between women and men in medieval Irish society, of gender values in medieval Ireland and of female roles in medieval Irish culture. The second section of the module (weeks 7-12) will first of all look at a key early medieval Irish text on legal procedures surrounding cases of conflicting claims of property ownership and how the property-owning rights of women were represented and defended in such cases. The module will then move to consider the representation of women's status and rights in medieval Welsh law, with particular, but not exclusive focus on marriage and divorce. All sources throughout the module will be read in English translation.

Learning outcomes:

- Knowledge of the socio-legal status of women in medieval Ireland and Wales, both the relative status of different categories of women, and their status relative to that of males.
- Critical understanding of the depiction of women in medieval literature within the context of the production of that literature.

- Familiarity with, and understanding of, some prominent female characters in medieval Irish literature, and what they can tell us about social values and cultural conventions.
- Familiarity with some of the textual and social issues surrounding our records of the early medieval Irish and Welsh legal systems.

SG3102 Celtic Onomastics

Lecturer **Liam Ó hAisibéil**

In this module, you will be introduced to the study of names and naming practices as an important and early source of information about the Celts. We will trace the surviving evidence for naming practices in Continental and Insular sources over time, and consider how we can interpret and use these sources in Celtic Studies today. We will also assess the significance of names as markers of linguistic and cultural heritage by examining the corpus of population group names, personal names, and place-names that are associated with the Celtic-speaking peoples of Ireland and Britain. Specific case studies from Ireland and Britain will be presented during lectures, and in-class discussion and associated tasks will allow students to engage with recorded naming practices among Celtic-speaking peoples from the medieval period to the present day.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Provide a reasoned definition of the terms ‘Celt’ and ‘Celtic’ in linguistic and onomastic contexts.
- Discuss the role of names as markers of linguistic and cultural heritage with your peers.
- Evaluate the most effective ways to conduct research and to interpret onomastic evidence.
- Provide an account of the origins, meaning, development, and distribution of a selection of personal names, surnames, or place-names.
- Critique, both orally and in writing, the effects and implications of anglicisation on names and naming practices in the Celtic-speaking world.

For descriptions of all Group B Modules, please consult with the relevant department, Archaeology, Classics or English.

GUIDELINES ON ESSAY-WRITING

The integrity of all assessments of a student's academic performance is based on the key assumption that any work submitted by a student is his/her own work. A breach of this trust is a form of cheating and is a very serious matter.

In writing essays or assignments, students will inevitably be indebted to the work of other authors, and due acknowledgement of any and all sources used in the preparation of essays must be made in accordance with the usual conventions.

The use by students, without explicit acknowledgement through quotation marks, of sentences and/or phrases taken verbatim from the work of others, constitutes **plagiarism**. Where Examiners are satisfied that plagiarism has occurred, a student may be subject to penalty, as the Examiners may determine.

Students are expected to follow these guidelines. Failure to do so may result in loss of marks on essays.

- All essays must be **typed** or **computer-generated**
- Print out the essay **double-spaced**.
- Leave 2.5 cm (1 inch) **margins** on both right and left-hand sides of the page to facilitate correction and remarks.
- Type or write only on **one side** of the page.
- Be sure to include **page numbers**, inserting them in either the top or bottom right-hand of each page.
- **Staple** your essay (don't use a paper clip). It is **unnecessary** to go to any expense to bind your essay or enclose it in a plastic cover. Stapling is perfectly adequate.
- Always **proof-read** your essay carefully before handing it in. This means looking out for spelling mistakes, typos and awkward grammar. If you leave any of these in your essay, it creates a bad impression in the examiner's mind - which is unlikely to benefit you. Don't forget to use the *Spell-Check* facility in your word-processing programme
- Always **retain a copy** of your essay.
- Always **save your work** as you work, in case the computer crashes. Computers have been known to crash, viruses destroy essays, etc., so keep at least two back-up copies for your own peace of mind.
- Remember: a **deadline** is not an invitation to complete essays by that date - it is an **instruction** to have essays completed by that date. Other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness verified by medical certificate) obligatory written assignments not submitted by the prescribed deadline shall be subject to penalty, and, in the case of extreme delinquency, shall be discounted altogether for the purposes of marking and grading. So plan your time and meet your deadline.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY REGARDING DEADLINES

Students must adhere to any deadline that is set for essays or other assignments. If an essay or assignment is submitted late without valid reason, the following policy will apply:

- 10% of the mark will be deducted for the first week or part thereof over the deadline (e.g. if the work has earned 60%, 6% will be deducted);
- 20% of the mark will be deducted for the second week or part thereof over the deadline (e.g. if the work has earned 60%, 12% will be deducted);
- 30% of the mark will be deducted for the third week or part thereof over the deadline (e.g. if the work has earned 60%, 18% will be deducted);
- Work will not be accepted after three weeks.

In exceptional cases (e.g. illness or other personal circumstances), an extension may be granted to a student. In such cases, it is the decision of the Year Co-ordinator to allow the extension.

- The students may explain the circumstances to a lecturer, to the Year Co-ordinator or to the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies.
- The student must provide the College Office with a medical certificate or other written evidence, if available, for an extension to be granted. If written evidence is not available, the student must satisfy the College that he/she has a legitimate reason to request an extension.
- When the College is satisfied that there are legitimate grounds for an extension, it will inform the Head of Department and the Year Co-ordinator. Student confidentiality will not be infringed if there is a privacy concern.
- The Year Co-ordinator, in conjunction with the lecturer if necessary, will then make arrangements for an extension and will inform the student and the Head of Department by email.