

IR1014-15 IRISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SIX SEPARATE SEGMENTS)

This course can be taken for one semester or for the whole year. Each semester covers three course segments, as outlined below.

Michaelmas Term (1st term) = IR1014 (10 ECTS)

IR1014 - Early Irish saga

IR1014 - Oral literature

IR1014 - Modern Irish language and literature A

Hilary Term (2nd term) = IR1015 (10 ECTS)

IR1015 - Midnight Court

IR1015 - The sources of Early Irish literature

IR1015 - Modern Irish language and literature B (this is a continuation of Part A, and the Learning Outcomes are essentially the same).

Assessment: Two short essays to be written over the course of the semester @ c.2,500 words per essay, or one longer essay @ 4,000-5,000 words. Titles will be given in class.

Learning Outcomes for each segment of the course are detailed overleaf.../.

IR1014 - Early Irish saga segment

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for the semester-long module. This segment = 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Recognise and describe the main cycles into which Early Irish literature is divided for purposes of analysis
- Understand and articulate the varying views of modern scholarship regarding the nature and function of early Irish saga
- Analyse the main features of heroic biography and apply the template to the sagas read
- Identify the underlying moral or message of the sagas studied
- Articulate the relevance of Early Irish saga for the modern reader
- Write a fully referenced essay drawing on the detailed bibliography provided for each saga

IR1014 Oral literature segment

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for the semester-long module. This segment = 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Have a broad view of the many facets of Irish oral literature
- Have an understanding of the folktale in general and of aspects of its transmission
- Be able to define the different genres of story found in oral literature
- Be able to speak with authority about rituals and festivities of the calendar year in Ireland

IR1014 Modern Irish language and literature segment (A)

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for each semester-long module. This segment = 1 x 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Be conversant with the life, and work (in English translation) of a range of key 20th and 21st Irish language writers
- Be familiar with the history of Irish literature and language revival from the late 19th century up to today
- Be able to discuss how social, cultural and linguistic change during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries have had an impact on literature and critical thought in Irish.

IR1015 Modern Irish language and literature segment (B)

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for each semester-long module. This segment = 1 x 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Be conversant with the life, and work (in English translation) of a range of key 20th and 21st Irish language writers
- Be familiar with the history of Irish literature and language revival from the late 19th century up to today
- Be able to discuss how social, cultural and linguistic change during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries have had an impact on literature and critical thought in Irish.

IR1015 - Midnight Court segment

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for the semester-long module. This segment = 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Have an appreciation of the Irish language roots of the poem
- Have a basic understanding of the historical context in which the poem was composed
- Have a good knowledge of, and be able to discuss, what is known of the poet
- Have a good knowledge of various translations of the poem
- Recognise and be able to discuss the main themes and images of the poem
- Have a developed personal theory on the reasons why the poem was composed
- Have further developed their research and presentation skills by engaging with this subject

IR1015 - The sources of Early Irish literature segment

ECTS Value: 10 ECTS for the semester-long module. This segment = 1/3rd

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Read and describe a basic type of the Irish alphabet *cló Gaelach*
- Identify different types of dating criteria and apply them to dating a given manuscript (Irish or otherwise)
- Place Old Irish accurately in a wider continuum of development and transmission of the Irish language
- Provide an elementary assessment of the position of Irish within the wider linguistic family of Celtic
- Read and describe the Ogam alphabet
- Recognise and describe the basic features of Old Irish syllabic metrics.