



SCOIL NA DTEANGACHA, NA LITRÍOCHTAÍ AGUS NA GCULTÚR

ROINN NA GAEILGE DEPARTMENT OF IRISH & CELTIC LANGUAGES



An Ghaeltacht



**Céad míle fáilte to one of the
most welcoming Departments in Trinity College!**

Modules in the Irish Department available to Visiting Students:

- **IRU1141 & IRU1152 Irish Language and Literature:** Topics cover the history of the language and students read and discuss literature in written Irish, but read in English. Two modules designed with Visiting Students in mind.
- **IRU22052 Early Irish Saga:** This is a course in early (i.e. pre twelfth-century) Irish saga literature in which a variety of texts, mainly from the Ulster, Mythological and King cycles, will be read in translation and discussed in class.
- Some other **Early Irish** modules are appropriate as they are taught through English. Talk to us if you have an interest.
- **Core Modern Irish** modules require a fluency in Irish. If you have this, má tá Gaeilge agat, you would be welcome to try our courses.

www.tcd.ie/Irish

e-mail: nibhraoc@tcd.ie

IRU11141 Irish Language and Literature Michaelmas Term (10 ECTS)

Two main areas of Irish Literature are covered:

1. Early Irish Saga

A course in early (i.e. pre twelfth-century) Irish saga literature in which a variety of texts, mainly from the Ulster, Mythological and King cycles will be read in translation and discussed in class. Sagas to be read will include the tragic story of Deirdre's love for Naoise, the story of Niall Frasach's judgement regarding the lesbian mother of a 'fatherless' child, and Sín's cold-blooded determination to exact revenge on her 'lover' for the slaughter of her family.

(Also available on its own as a 5 ECTS module **IRU11041**)



2. Modern Irish Literature

20th and 21st century literature in Irish is a miracle. Given the cultural traumas of the previous centuries, it is incredible that the Irish language has survived at all. The fact that it has a flourishing literature and vibrant cultural scene is nothing short of miraculous. This course outlines the origins of modern Irish literature in the language renaissance of the late 19th century and its development up to today. The efforts to save and promote Irish and the heated debates and politics of the language movement provide the background for understanding a literature whose very existence is a triumph of the human spirit. (Part 1)

(Also available on its own as a 5 ECTS module IRU11181).

Two lecture hours per week.

Assessment: Two short essays to be written over the course of the semester @ c.2,500 – 3,000 words per essay, or one longer essay @ 4,500-5,000 words.



Lean muid! Follow us!

More information at
www.tcd.ie/irish

IRU11152 Irish Language & Literature Hilary Term (10 ECTS)

Two main areas of Irish Literature are covered:

1. Modern Irish Literature

This course will introduce students to key aspects of 20th and 21st century literature and critical debate in Irish – see above for more information. (Part 2)



2. The Sources of Early Irish Literature

This component will cover the following aspects of the transmission and wider context of Early Irish documents:

- Periods of Early Irish up to the beginning of Modern Irish (c. 1200 AD);
- Development of the Irish script;
- Irish manuscripts and their dating;
- Irish glosses explaining Latin texts;
- Other (more personal) Irish notes in manuscripts;
- Irish as a Celtic language and a brief comparison with Gaulish;
- Ogam inscriptions;
- Early Irish metrics and poetry.

(Also available on its own as a 5 ECTS module as IRU11192)

Two lecture hours per week.

Assessment: Two short essays to be written over the course of the semester @ c.2,500 – 3,000 words per essay, or one longer essay @ 4,500-5,000 words.

Junior Freshman Early Irish Modules

Michaelmas Term students may take some Early Irish modules as they are taught through English.

IRU11001 Old Irish Grammar (A) (5 ECTS)

Learn to read and translate some basic classical Old Irish, discuss the orthography of Old Irish and how it differs from its modern counterpart, and analyse the grammatical structure of very basic Old Irish sentences with the appropriate terminology.

Assessment: 66% Written examination, 34% homework exercises.

IRU11021 The Sources of Early Irish Literature (5 ECTS)

Content as above, but extended.

Assessment: 40% classroom-based exam in week 12. 60% essay (1,500-2,000 words).

IRU11041 Introduction to Early Irish Sagas (5 ECTS)

Content as above.

Assessment: 40% classroom-based exam in week 12. 60% essay (1,500-2,000 words).

IRU22052 Early Irish Saga II (5 ECTS):

This module runs in Hilary Term.

This is a course in early (i.e. pre twelfth-century) Irish saga literature in which a variety of texts, mainly from the Ulster, Mythological and King cycles, will be read in translation and discussed in class.

Sagas to be read will include

- the timeless war of the Gods, Good v Evil in the exemplary myth, *The Battle of Moytura*;
- the *Saga of Fergus mac Léti* with its scandalous treatment of a young mother of an 'illegitimate' child, forced into slavery to save her son;
- the *Death of Conchobar*, a case of posthumous revenge and delayed execution allowing for baptism by blood on the night of Christ's persecution and death;
- the *Death of Conla* at the hands of his own father, the famous Cú Chulainn, despite the protests and warnings of his wife, Emer;
- the *Pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas Már* incorporating the showdown at Tara, i.e. the battle between Christianity and Paganism; the hound, hero and hospitaller triptych incorporating 'hound and hero', 'hound and bogus hero' and 'hound and anti-hero';
- the *Birth-tale of Niall of the Nine Hostages* incorporating the loathly Lady at the well, the Irish sovereignty Goddess.



One lecture hour per week

Assessment: 1 essay (1500-2000 words) (60%) and one examination (40%)



Would you like to learn to speak some Irish while you're in Ireland?



We also run an 'Elementary Irish' course twice a week in the evenings for visiting staff / students. It's **not for credit**, but you'll pick up a bit of Irish while you're here!

Mondays and Thursdays at 6pm or 7pm, for an hour each.
Classes take place online this semester.

Drop in to 4055 in the Arts Building or email nibhraoc@tcd.ie if you have any queries about any of our courses.

www.tcd.ie/Irish