

Modules for Visiting Students :: Semester 1

IRU11041 Early Irish Saga (5 ECTS)

Wednesdays 12pm (ONLINE)

Damian McManus (pmcmanus@tcd.ie)

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.

Assessment: End-of-term essay. C.2,500 words.

IRU11181 Modern Irish Literature (5 ECTS)

Thursdays 2pm (ON CAMPUS)

Pádraig de Paor (depaorp@tcd.ie)

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.

(This module is repeated in Semester 2) – note that if you intend registering for IRU11152 that this would double up on this module, and would be better)

Assessment: End-of-term essay. C.2,500 words.

IRU11141 Irish Language and Literature MT (10 ECTS)

This is essentially **the above two modules in one 10 ECTS module**. Assessment will be two essays as above. This module was specifically created with Visiting Students in mind, to give them a taste of literature written originally in Irish but read here in translation.

IRU11001 Old Irish Grammar (5 ECTS)

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

- read and translate some basic classical Old Irish
- outline the orthography of Old Irish and how it differs from its modern counterpart
- analyse the grammatical structure of very basic Old Irish sentences with the appropriate terminology
- outline the concept of the 'paradigm' and apply it to the grammatical analysis
- recognise and explain some of the main differences between Old and Modern Irish
- apply the skills of grammatical analysis acquired in the study of Old Irish to any other language
- begin to use textual glossaries.

Assessment: 66% exam, 34% homework exercises

Teaching: two language classes and one tutorial

IRU11021 The sources of Early Irish literature (5 ECTS)

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.

Assessment: 40% classroom-based exam, 60% essay

Teaching: one one-hour lecture per week

Essays to be submitted by the end of term. Hard copy (if requested by lecturer) to Room 4055. Electronic copy to aisti.gaeilge@tcd.ie.

Modules for Visiting Students :: Semester 2

IRU11152: Irish Language and Literature (10 ECTS)

Modern Irish Literature

Mondays 4pm (Arts Building)

Pádraig de Paor (depaorp@tcd.ie)

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(This module is repeated in Semester 2)

Assessment: End-of-term essay. c.2,500 words.

The Sources of Early Irish Literature (also available separately as **IRU11192 for 5 ECTS)**

Thursdays 11am (Arts Building)

Jürgen Uhlich (uhlichc@tcd.ie)

This module 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.

Assessment: End-of-term essay. c.2,500 words.

(NOTE: The modern literature component above is a repeat of the module in Semester one. If you are here for the year, **you can't take both IRU11141 and IRU11152**, but three of the four component modules are available separately.)

IRU22052 Early Irish Saga (5 ECTS):

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* and 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 hour per week (11am Wednesdays, ONLINE).

Assessment: 1 essay (c.2500 words)

IRU22182 Early Irish Law and Society

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

- Give an overview of the early Irish legal system ('**Brehon law**')
- Characterise the structure of early Irish society and its institutions – in particular:
- Describe the **early Irish** system of **law enforcement** in the absence of a centralised state and associated police force
- Describe the status of women in early Irish society, including marriage arrangements
- Describe early Irish family structures
- Give an overview of **farming and food** in early Ireland
- Characterise the nature and background of **Irish 'sacral' kingship** and the concept of 'truth'

One hour per week (2pm Tuesdays, 5033).

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 two hours 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!

Beginners: Mondays and Thursdays at **6pm**, for an hour each.

Classes take place in 3051 (Arts Building).

www.tcd.ie/Irish