

**SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY IRISH**

MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES



THIRD YEAR STUDENTS' HANDBOOK 2022-23

Welcome

Welcome to Maynooth University and to the Department of Early Irish (Roinn na Sean-Ghaeilge). We are delighted that you will finish your degree in Medieval Celtic Studies, and we hope that you will enjoy the year as you deepen your knowledge and understanding of Medieval Irish history and archaeology, look in greater detail into various aspects of Irish literature, or advance in the study the Old Irish language, the medium in which the famous tales and poems have been preserved.

The Department of Early Irish (Sean-Ghaeilge) is part of the School of Celtic Studies (Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh) in the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy of Maynooth University. The homepage of the department is at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/early-irish-sean-ghaeilge>. The Department can be contacted by email at earlyirish@mu.ie. The members of staff are listed below. Please contact them via email if you have any queries and they can arrange a one-on-one meeting if necessary. Staff endeavour to respond to all student emails as quickly as possible during work hours (9:00–17:00, Monday–Friday).

Associate Prof. Dr. *Deborah Hayden* (Head of Subject)

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Administrator

Cormac Ó Feintheadha
Room 44, Arts Building
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Important dates

Semester 1

19 September 2022 – 16 December 2022

19 September 2022	Lectures commence
7 October 2022	Change of module deadline for all continuing students
31 October–4 November 2022	Study week
16 December 2022	Conclusion of first semester lectures
19–30 December 2022	Christmas vacation
2–5 January 2023	Study period
6 January 2023	Examination period commences

Semester 2

30 January 2023 – 5 May 2023

30 January 2023	Lectures resume
10 February 2023	Deadline for change of 2 nd semester modules
13–17 March 2023	Study week
7 April 2023	Good Friday (no lectures)
10–14 April 2023	Easter vacation
1 May 2023	May bank holiday (no lectures)
2–5 May 2023	Conclusion of second semester lectures
8–11 May 2023	Study week
12 May 2023	Examination period commences

Third Year – General Information

Queries

General concerns, problems or issues which may arise should be addressed to your Third Year Co-ordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Boyle (elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie). Wherever possible, queries pertaining to specific modules are best addressed to the lecturer in question during the consultation hours or after their lectures.

Lectures

You are required to register for modules amounting to 30 credits in total. The modules typically merit 5 credits and entail 24 lectures (2 hours per week), delivered over the duration of the semester. You must attend all modules that you are registered for. Tutorials are offered for some modules; if one such module is your choice then you must sign up for a suitable tutorial time slot as your attendance and participation in relevant tutorials contributes to the overall module assessment. All modules contribute to the end-of-year mark.

It is your duty to attend all classes, lectures and tutorials. If you cannot attend a class for any reason, please contact the relevant lecturer beforehand and explain your case. If you are ill, provide us with a doctor's certificate stating the duration of your illness. The campus map allows you to locate all teaching venues: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-map#expanded>. Although most times and venues of lectures have been fixed before the start of the year, they may be subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, it is important to check this information at the beginning of each semester.

Moodle

Each module has a particular account allocated on Maynooth University's academic support system Moodle at <https://moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/>. Course material for each module and general information will be made available on the relevant Moodle pages. Familiarise yourself with this platform and get accustomed to using it regularly. It is a practical tool for communicating with your fellow students and lecturers about questions arising in the lectures.

Assessment

The modules will be examined through a combination of essays, examinations, and various kinds of continuous assessment; some modules are assessed by examination only. The exact details for their relative weighting differ from module to module, details of which can be found in the module descriptors. The university-scheduled examinations will take place at the end of the relevant semester, after the end of the lectures. It is possible that these exams will take the form of on-line examinations.

Other types of assessment (in-class exams, essays, etc.) fall within the semester; details will be provided by the lecturers. Maynooth University's Marks & Standards as detailed online at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams/information-students> apply. Please note that according to these under normal circumstances the highest attainable mark is 80.

Textbooks, Library

Relevant textbooks for each module will be recommended to you in the lectures. You can borrow these books from the John Paul II Library in the South Campus, or buy them in the University Bookshop, North Campus.

Essays, academic sincerity and deadlines

You will be required to write essays (2,000–3,000 words approx.) for some modules. Recommended reading lists and essay titles will be communicated by the lecturers during each module involved. Essay cover sheets can be downloaded from the Department webpage at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/early-irish-sean-ghaeilge/our-courses>. They must be duly completed, signed and attached to all submissions. Students are required to provide two copies of essay assignments, one for retention by the Department, and one for retention by the student.

Is féidir leat na haistí a cheapadh as Gaeilge más mian leat.

These essays must be properly referenced. You are responsible for the quality of any information used from other sources. All material consulted for essays must be credited with a recognised form of academic referencing. Unacknowledged reproduction of another's work or plagiarism is considered a serious offence, for which a student will receive no marks and the matter will be reported to the Head of Subject, Dr. Deborah Hayden. You are obliged to adhere strictly to the Maynooth University policy on plagiarism as detailed online at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams/information-students>. Any such offences will be prosecuted according to Maynooth University rules and regulations stated therein.

Essays must be submitted by the deadline dates outlined in the module descriptors below, or at the time specified by the lecturers during each module. Late essay submissions will incur a penalty of a reduction of 10 marks per day late of deadline. Assignments handed in more than 1 week after the due date will be awarded no more than 40% of the maximum mark possible. No essays will be accepted after the end of the lecture period of the relevant semester (16 December 2022 in semester 1; 5 May 2023 in semester 2).

Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office is available to assist and advise undergraduate students with programme related decisions you may be unsure about during your time at Maynooth University. The Programme Advisory Office acts as a guide to students as you navigate your own way through your programme options. The Programme Advisory team can assist first year students with questions about subject combinations, changing subjects and progression options for second year. Continuing students may also avail of the service if you are unsure about your programme options, for example if you have any questions about the flexible degree pathways, or whether or not to choose to take an Elective.

Contact:

Room 1.17, ground floor Rowan House

website: www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office

email: programme.choices@mu.ie

phone: 01 474 7428

Experiential Learning

Experience More During Your Time at MU

The routes available to Maynooth students to experience more from their degree programme are diverse, enabling the development of rich learning experiences that connect classroom content with real-world experience. The Experiential Learning Office connects Maynooth students to a range of opportunities in the following areas.

Community Based Service Learning

Community Based Service Learning presents a credit-bearing academic experience that empowers students to engage with their surrounding communities, which often results in enhancing student's academic, civic, social and personal development, whilst they contribute to the common good. The experiential learning office facilitates academic staff in offering community based service learning experiences with their students.

Further information and contact:

website: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/experiential-learning-office>

email: Aisling.Flynn@mu.ie

phone: + 353 1 4747760

Semester 1

SG307 Language 3 – Old Irish 3 (5 credits)

This module refines the study of the Old Irish language from the so-called classical period of the 8th and 9th centuries. Advanced aspects of Old Irish grammar and syntax are introduced (moods and tenses, subordinate clauses).

Prerequisite: SG207 + SG208 or an equivalent knowledge of Old Irish

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours + 9 tutorial hours

Time and Venue: Tue 9:00 [EH] and Thu 12:00 [RM62] or Fri 10:00 [PB2]

Lecturer: Francesco Felici

Text book: David Stifter, *Sengoídelc. Old Irish for Beginners*, New York: Syracuse University Press 2006.

Assessment: Marks are awarded up to a maximum of 80. 10% of these marks are awarded for attendance and tutorial work, 30% for a mid-term in-class written examination, and 60% for a university-scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

Tutorials: Arrangements for tutorials will be announced at the beginning of semester 1.

SG228 Literature 7 – King Arthur's Britain: Medieval Welsh Literature (5 credits)

This module offers the student a first introduction to select topics of medieval Welsh literature, including the collection of tales known as the *Mabinogion*, legends concerning Merlin, heroic poetry and the question of the beginning of Arthurian literature.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Wed 12:00 [SE236], Thu 12:00 [JHT4]

Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Hayden

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Continuous Assessment, an essay details and deadlines of which will be announced in class and/or electronically.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination in January 2023.

SG230 Literature 4 – Humour in Medieval Celtic Literature (5 credits)

There are a number of texts surviving from twelfth-century Ireland and Wales which are generally accepted as being ironic or parodic in intent, and are thus regarded as humorous compositions. This module will trace the earlier development of humour in medieval Celtic narrative, examining the use of subversive literary tropes – particular-

ly irony – to undermine certain social or religious conventions. Students will explore a range of ironic and parodic narratives, and the relationship between humour and the more serious genre of satire will be considered. Students will explore the way that humour is used to subvert the so-called ‘heroic ethos’ and to express disapproval at cases of clerical immorality. This will lead to a consideration of some of the more extensive parodies and ironic narratives written in medieval Ireland and Wales, including *Aislinge Meic Con Glinne* and *Culhwch ac Olwen*.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Wed 17:00 [EHCR] and Thu 16:00 [ESR]

Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

SG253 History 1 – Early Ireland, from St Patrick to the Battle of Clontarf (5 credits)

This module is framed around two historical men from medieval Ireland for whom lasting legacies were created. These are St Patrick, patron saint and Irish cultural icon, who reputedly drove the snakes from Ireland in the name of Christianity and high-king Brian Boru, who reputedly drove the vikings from Ireland at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. This module explores the history and culture of the six centuries separating these two individuals, when Ireland was famed as the ‘Island of saints and scholars’.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Thu 09:00 [HB] and Fri 12:00 [BSEM]

Lecturer: Dr. Caitlin Ellis

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Essay.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

SG354 History 5 – The Viking World II: Ireland (5 credits)

The vikings were a major factor in Irish history from the late eighth century until the early eleventh, and had a continuing influence until the later twelfth century. But who exactly were the vikings and what impact did they have on Ireland during this period? This module explores the various representations of the vikings and their activities in the primary sources and examines questions of identity and cultural legacy in medieval Ireland.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Thu 11:00 [EHCR] and Thu 14:00 [JHT10]

Lecturers: Dr. Caitlin Ellis

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Essay.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

SG381 Palaeography for Undergraduates 1 (2.5 credits)

This module introduces the students to basic concepts of palaeography: the development of scripts and writing styles, common abbreviations and notae, and codicology. The students will gain practical experience in reading medieval Irish manuscripts.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours

Time and Venue: TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Chantal Kobel

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment (reading and transcribing passages from medieval manuscripts for the class, in-class exam).

SG341 Readings from Early Irish Literature 1 (5 credits)

In this module, an Old Irish text will be read in the original language. The students will have to prepare passages at home, and these will be discussed in detail in class.

Prerequisite: Some knowledge of Old Irish

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Tue 12:00 [SE234], Thu 15:00 [BSEM]

Lecturer: Francesco Felici

Assessment: 40% of the marks are awarded on the basis of continuous assessment (reading and translating in class), 60% for a written examination (60 min) in January 2023.

Special Options Semester 1

SG241 Intensive Old Irish 1 (10 credits)

The students are gradually familiarised with all aspects of Old Irish grammar. First, the phonology and orthography of Old Irish are introduced. After this, the inflectional classes of the nouns and adjectives, the present stem classes of the verbs, as well as central chapters of syntax, e.g. inflected prepositions and infixed pronouns, are the main focus of the attention.

Students who want to take this module have to contact the module coordinator first. Previous experience in the learning of languages is recommended.

This module has to be taken together with SG243.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 48 lecture hours

Time and Venue: to be arranged, initial meeting Mon 19 Sept. 12:00 [EHCR]

Lecturer: Francesco Felici

Assessment:

- (a) 10% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (b) 90% Written examination (180 min) in January 2023.

SG271 Middle Welsh (5 credits)

This module provides an introduction to the grammar of Middle Welsh, exemplified by short pieces of Middle Welsh text where appropriate.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent student activities

Time and Venue: Tue 15:00 [BSEM]

Lecturer: Prof. Barry Lewis

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment (in-class written exam)

SG350 Structured Reading (5 credits)

Guided structured reading of articles, chapters, and monographs from the historiography of Celtic Studies. Students who want to register for this module have to contact their year coordinator first. SG350 can only be taken once.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent work

Time and Venue: to be arranged

Lecturer: Dr. Mary Leenane

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment.

HY387 Ireland in Prehistory (5 credits)

Ireland has a very significant urban tradition stretching back well over a millennium. The earliest stages of town development can be traced at a few of the larger early medieval monastic sites such as Armagh and Kildare. A new wave of urban growth was instigated by Scandinavian settlers – five of Ireland's largest cities were founded primarily as trading ports at strategic locations by the Vikings in the ninth and tenth centuries. The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the second half of the twelfth century initiated another crucial phase of urban generation, with more than fifty towns being founded. A further stage of town creation was the plantation era of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Through archaeological, documentary and other sources, this module will trace the development of urban Ireland from the early medieval period through to the seventeenth century.

Attention: only a limited number of places available!

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Wed 11:00 [TSI035] and Wed 13:00 [HD]

Lecturer: Dr. Michael Potterton

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment (5,000-word essay or shorter essay combined with class assignments/tests. Essay to be submitted by Monday prior to commencement of end-of-semester examinations).

Semester 2

SG308 Language 4 – Old Irish 4 (5 Credits)

This module rounds off the study of the Old Irish language from the so-called classical period of the 8th and 9th centuries. Advanced aspects of Old Irish grammar and syntax are introduced (remaining moods and tenses).

Prerequisite: SG307 or an equivalent knowledge of Old Irish

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours + 10 tutorial hours

Time and Venue: Mon 14:00 [PB1] and Tue 15:00 [HJ] or Thu 14:00 [RW.01]

Lecturer: Francesco Felici

Text books: David Stifter, *Sengoídelc. Old Irish for Beginners*, New York: Syracuse University Press 2006.

Assessment: Marks are awarded up to a maximum of 80. 10% of these marks are awarded for attendance and tutorial work, 30% for a mid-term in-class written examination, and 60% for a written examination in May 2023.

Tutorials: Arrangements for tutorials will be announced at the beginning of semester 2.

SG223 History 3 – The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland (5 credits)

Archaeological evidence for secular settlement and social systems, the development of the early Church and monastic sites, the emergence of late ‘Celtic’ artistic traditions and the wider European, including Anglo-Saxon, Carolingian and Viking, influences that contributed to this rich period of Irish society is introduced and examined in detail. The contribution of new archaeological discoveries are assessed in the wider context of interdisciplinary studies, including history and environmental research.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Tue 12:00 [EHCR] and TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Eoin Grogan

Assessment: 50% each for two essays from set topics

SG227 Literature 6 – Fenian Literature (5 credits)

This module will focus on the medieval Irish saga literature known as *féanaigeacht*, that is, literature concerned with Finn mac Cumhaill and his *féan* ('warband'). Significant tales from the so-called 'Fenian Cycle', ranging from 'Finn and the Man in the Tree' to *Acallam na Senórach* ('The Colloquy of the Ancients') will be studied in detail, and various literary, moral and political interpretations of the tales will be explored. The circumstances of composition of the literature, and its striking interest in aspects of geography and cultural memory, will be discussed in detail. The modern reception and reworking of 'Finn Cycle' literature will also be explored.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Thu 9:00 [PB1] and TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Mary Leenane

Assessment: (a) 50% Continuous Assessment (2,000–2,500 words).

(b) 50% Written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

SG254 History 2 – Law, Society and the Learned Classes in Early Ireland (5 credits)

The early Irish law books, often known as the 'Brehon laws' provide a wealth of information about numerous aspects of medieval Irish society. This module studies aspects of these law books, the learned classes that created them and the social institutions and practices they illuminate.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Thu 16:00 [EHCR] and Fri 13:00 [JHT7]

Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

Assessment:

(a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)

(b) 50% Written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

SG382 Palaeography for Undergraduates (2.5 credits)

The students are introduced to the Irish manuscript tradition, especially those manuscripts that are relevant for medieval literature of Ireland. The students will learn how to read and transcribe medieval Irish manuscripts.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours

Time and Venue: TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Chantal Kobel

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment (practice in reading and transcribing medieval Irish manuscripts).

SG342 Readings from Early Irish Literature 2 (5 credits)

In this module, an Old Irish text will be read in the original language. The students will have to prepare passages at home, and these will be discussed in detail in class.

Prerequisite: Some knowledge of Old Irish

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Tue 12:00 [TSI035] and Thu 15:00 [RW.121]

Lecturer: TBA

Assessment: 40% of the marks are awarded on the basis of continuous assessment (reading and translating in class), 60% for a university-scheduled written examination (60 min) in May 2023.

SG330 Dissertation (5 credits)

Students will have the opportunity to engage in independent research on an approved topic. Students will be expected to produce a dissertation of c. 8,000 words.

Prerequisite: 65 or higher in the subject mark.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours, 12 hours of student activities

Time, Venue: TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Boyle, Dr Deborah Hayden

Assessment: 100% of the marks will be awarded on the basis of the written dissertation (c. 8,000 words).

Special Options Semester 2

SG272 Middle Welsh Reading (5 credits)

Reading of select Middle Welsh texts, prose and/or poetry.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 12 lecture hours + 12 hours of independent student activities

Time and Venue: TBA

Lecturer: Prof. Barry Lewis

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment (weekly preparations, in-class written exam)

SG242 Intensive Old Irish 2 (10 credits)

This module introduces the students to advanced aspects of Old Irish grammar, esp. the formation of non-present tenses and moods, and advanced aspects of syntax, esp. dependent clauses.

This module has to be taken together with SG244.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 48 lecture hours

Time and Venue: TBA

Lecturer: Francesco Felici

Assessment:

- (a) 10% Tutorial attendance and assignments.
- (b) 90% Written examination (180 min) in May 2023.

Timetable (2022/3): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3rd Year

Semester 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00	SG307 [EH]			SG253 [HB]	
10:00					SG307 [PB2]
11:00			HY387 [TSI035]	SG354 [EHCR]	
12:00		SG341 [SE234]	SG228 [SE236]	SG228 [JHT4] SG307 [RM62]	SG253 [BSEM]
13:00			HY387 [HD]		
14:00				SG354 [JHT10]	
15:00		SG271 [BSEM]		SG341 [BSEM]	
16:00				SG230 [ESR]	
17:00			SG230 [EHCR]		

Timetable (2022/3): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3rd Year

Semester 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00				SG227 [PB1]	
10:00					
11:00					
12:00		SG223 [EHCR] SG342 [TSI035]			
13:00					SG254 [JHT7]
14:00	SG308 [PB1]			SG308 [RW.01]	
15:00		SG308 [HJ]		SG342 [RW.121]	
16:00				SG254 [EHCR]	
17:00					