

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

## **MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES**



**THIRD YEAR STUDENTS HANDBOOK 2019-20**

## 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](mailto:earlyirish@mu.ie). The members of staff are:

Professor Dr. *David Stifter*

Room 18, Arts Building

email: [david.stifter@mu.ie](mailto:david.stifter@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 3710

Consultation hours: TBA

Lecturer Dr. *Elizabeth Boyle* (Head of Subject)

Room 25, Arts Building

email: [elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.boyle@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 6784

Consultation hours: TBA

Lecturer Dr. *Deborah Hayden*

Room 23, Arts Building

email: [deborah.hayden@mu.ie](mailto:deborah.hayden@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 3711

Consultation hours: TBA

Lecturer Dr. *Niamh Wycherley*

Room 1.10, Iontas Building

email: [niamh.wycherley@mu.ie](mailto:niamh.wycherley@mu.ie)

Consultation hours: TBA

Dr. *Eoin Grogan*

Room 53, Arts Building

email: [eoin.grogan@mu.ie](mailto:eoin.grogan@mu.ie)

Consultation hours: TBA

## Other Lecturers

Dr. *Nora White*

email: [nora.white@mu.ie](mailto:nora.white@mu.ie)

Consultation hours: TBA

Dr. *Chantal Kobel*

email: [chantal@celt.dias.ie](mailto:chantal@celt.dias.ie)

Consultation hours: TBA

## Secretary's office

Room 43, Arts Building

email: [earlyirish@mu.ie](mailto:earlyirish@mu.ie)

phone: 01/708 3737

## Important dates

### *Semester 1*

23 September 2019 – 20 December 2019

23 September 2019	Lectures commence
18 October 2019	Change of subject deadline for 1 <sup>st</sup> -year students
28 October – 1 November 2019	Study week
20 December 2019	Conclusion of first semester lectures
23 December 2019 – 3 January 2020	Christmas vacation
6–9 January 2020	Study period
10 January 2020	Examination period commences

### *Semester 2*

3 February 2020 – 8 May 2020

3 February 2020	Lectures resume
14 February 2020	Deadline for change of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester modules
16–20 March 2020	Study week
10 April 2020	Good Friday (no lectures)
13–17 April 2020	Easter vacation
4 May 2020	May bank holiday
8 May 2020	Conclusion of second semester lectures
11–14 May 2020	Study week
15 May 2020	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, Professor David Stifter ([david.stifter@mu.ie](mailto:david.stifter@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.

Each module has a particular account allocated on Maynooth University's academic support system Moodle at <https://2020.moodle.maynoothuniversity.ie/>.

### 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. 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.

### **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. Elizabeth Boyle. 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 (20 December 2019 in semester 1; 8 May 2020 in semester 2).

### **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. Visit the library early on in the semester and familiarise yourself with it, e.g. where you may find the relevant books and journals.

## **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](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/programme-advisory-office)

email: [programme.choices@mu.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 + 10 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Mon 14:00 [SE235] and Thu 14:00 [T1]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Nora White

**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 2020.

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

### **SG343 Literature 1 – The Celtic Heroic Age (5 credits)**

During the Middle Ages, many saga narratives were written in Ireland and Wales which are now generally regarded as ‘heroic literature’. This module will begin by defining heroic literature, before examining the literary models for heroic literature in the Middle Ages – including Old Testament narrative and Virgil’s Aeneid. We will then progress to reading and analysing a wide range of medieval Irish heroic literature, including texts on literary heroes, such as Cú Chulainn and Finn mac Cumail, and historical heroes, such as Brian Ború. The status of hagiography as a form of heroic literature will also be discussed, and we will consider whether women could be regarded as heroic or whether the ‘hero’ was a purely masculine paradigm in medieval literature. Comparisons and contrasts will be made with medieval Welsh heroic literature, particularly the corpus of tales which centre on King Arthur.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours + 5 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Wed 12:00 [SE236] and Thu 12:00 [SE233]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:**

(a) 50% Essay.

(b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2020.

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

### **SG346 Literature 2 – Between Mythology and History (5 credits)**

What is history? What is mythology? How historical is the central tale of the Tuatha Dé Danann, *Cath Maige Tuired* ('The Battle of Moytura')? How mythological is Brian Boru's biography, *Cogadh Gáedhel re Gallaibh* ('The War of the Irish with the Foreigners')? To answer these and related questions, we will begin by exploring theories of history and mythology and survey writings from medieval Ireland and Wales that have been labelled 'historical' and 'mythological'. In exploring these sometimes nebulous concepts, we will look at features of the historical and mythological cycles of Irish tales, mythological interpretations of medieval Welsh tales, the Irish origin legend *Lebor Gabála Éirenn* ('The Book of the Taking of Ireland'), and annalistic writing in Ireland and Wales. Lectures will be supplemented by five tutorials, in which we will explore some of the major module themes further and discuss how to develop your research and essay-writing skills.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours + 5 tutorial hours

**Time and Venue:** Mon 10:00 [SE233] and Mon 16:00 [EH]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Essay and/or presentation.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2020.

### **SG354 History 5 – The Viking World: 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. This module studies the Viking impact in Ireland during this period.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Wed 12:00 [RW.02] and Thu 12:00 [RM62]

**Lecturers:** Dr. Niamh Wycherley

**Assessment:**

- (a) 50% Essay.
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2020.

### **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:** students are requested to contact the lecturer

**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 (*Scéla Muicce Maic Da Thó*) 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 [HJ] and Fri 12:00 [T4]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (weekly reading and translating in class, 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 the lecturer 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. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment.

## **Special Options Semester 1**

### **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. Can only be chosen by students who did not do it in 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

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

**Time and Venue:** Thu 9:00 [EHCR]

**Lecturer:** Prof. Barry Lewis

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

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 [SE235] and Thu 14:00 [APT]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Nora White

**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 university-scheduled written examination in May 2020.

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

### **SG344 Literature 3 – Tales of the Otherworld (5 credits)**

This module will introduce students to the large body of literature surviving from medieval Ireland which has a journey to the Otherworld as its central theme. This literature is diverse, ranging from entertaining prose narratives through to dense and allusive poetry. Journeys to the Otherworld can include adventures to a supernatural world within a hill or mound; voyages by boat to magical islands across the sea; or out-of-body experiences which comprise journeys through the Christian heaven and hell accompanied by an angelic guide. The literature will be studied with due attention paid to the historiographical issue of whether the Otherworld ‘under the hill’ represents the survival of a pre-Christian religious belief, or whether the texts which describe the Otherworld in this way view it as a purely literary device which can be used to hold a critical mirror to the real world. Texts will be read in relation to the secondary literature which examines them as complex literary compositions in their own right, as well as the literature which seeks to use the texts as evidence for a variety of religious beliefs and practices.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:** 24 lecture hours

**Time and Venue:** Thu 12:00 [LY3] and Fri 12:00 [APT]

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:**

(a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)

(b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in May 2020.

### **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:** students are requested to contact the lecturer

**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:** Wed 10:00 [T4], Wed 11:00 [T4], Thu 12:00 [AX1], Fri 12:00 [RW.01] (to be arranged)

**Lecturer:** Dr. Nora White

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment (translating in class, 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 the lecturer 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. Elizabeth Boyle

**Assessment:** 100% continuous assessment.

### **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:** to be arranged in consultation with Dr. Boyle.

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

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

## Special Options Semester 2

### **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 16:00 [RW.121] and Wed 17:00 [RW.121]

**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).

### **SG272 Middle Welsh Reading (5 credits)**

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

**Prerequisite:** SG271 or equivalent.

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

**Time and Venue:** Tue 12:00 [SE236]

**Lecturer:** Prof. Barry Lewis

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

**Timetable (2019/20): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**  
**Semester 1**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>09:00</b>				SG271 [EHCR]	
<b>10:00</b>	SG346 [SE233]				
<b>11:00</b>					
<b>12:00</b>		SG341 [HJ]	SG343 [SE236] SG354 [RW.02]	SG343 [SE233] SG354 [RM62]	SG341 [T4]
<b>13:00</b>					
<b>14:00</b>	SG307 [SE235]			SG307 [T1]	
<b>15:00</b>					
<b>16:00</b>	SG346 [EH]				
<b>17:00</b>					

**Timetable (2019/20): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**  
**Semester 2**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>09:00</b>					
<b>10:00</b>			SG342 [T4]?		
<b>11:00</b>			SG342 [T4]?		
<b>12:00</b>			SG272 [SE236]	SG344 [LY3] SG342 [AX1]?	SG344 [APT] SG342 [RW.01]?
<b>13:00</b>					
<b>14:00</b>	SG308 [SE235]			SG308 [APT]	
<b>15:00</b>					
<b>16:00</b>			HY387 [RW.121]		
<b>17:00</b>			HY387 [RW.121]		