

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

MEDIEVAL CELTIC STUDIES



THIRD YEAR STUDENTS HANDBOOK 2018–19

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:

Professor Dr. *David Stifter*

Room 18, Arts Building

email: david.stifter@mu.ie

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Consultation hours: TBA

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

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Lecturer Dr. *Deborah Hayden*

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Lecturer *Daniel Watson*

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Other Lecturers

Dr. Colmán Etchingham

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Consultation hours: TBA

Secretary

Claire Albrecht

Room 43, Arts Building

email: earlyirish@mu.ie

phone: 01/708 3737

Important dates

Semester 1

24 September 2018 – 21 December 2018

24 September 2018	Lectures commence
19 October 2018	Change of subject deadline for 1 st -year students
29 October – 2 November 2018	Study week
21 December 2018	Conclusion of first semester lectures
24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	Christmas vacation
7–10 January 2019	Study period
11 January 2019	Examination period commences

Semester 2

4 February 2019 – 10 May 2019

4 February 2019	Lectures resume
15 February 2019	Deadline for change of 2 nd semester modules
18–22 March 2019	Study week
15–19 April 2019	Easter vacation
22 April 2019	Easter Monday bank holiday
6 May 2019	May bank holiday
10 May 2019	Conclusion of second semester lectures
13 May – 16 May 2019	Study week
17 May 2019	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). 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 interactive campus map allows you to easily locate all teaching venues: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Website%20map%20September%202015%20%283%20parts%29_0.pdf. 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://2019.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 (21 December 2018 in semester 1; 10 May 2019 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

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 + 10 tutorial hours

Time and Venue: To be arranged in week 1

Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Hayden

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 2018.

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

SG324 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 – particularly 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: Thu 09:00 [HH] and Thu 12:00 [SE233]

Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Essay (2,000–2,500 words)
- (b) 50% University scheduled written examination (60 min) in January 2019.

SG328 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, in particular the Mabinogion and the question of the beginning of Arthurian literature.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Wed 12:00 [RM62] and Thu 15:00 [RM61]

Lecturer: Daniel Watson

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 2019.

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: TBA

Lecturer: Dr. Elizabeth Boyle

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 January 2019.

SG353 History 4 – The Viking World I: Europe (5 credits)

The Vikings were a major factor in the history of Europe from the late eighth century until the eleventh. This module studies the Viking impact in Britain, Continental Europe and the North Atlantic.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Mon 15:00 [LY3] and Tue 11:00 [SE009]

Lecturer: Dr. Colmán Etchingham

Assessment: Total marks 100% awarded on the basis of 50% each for two essays, out of four set topics; details and deadlines will be announced in class and/or electronically.

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: To be arranged in week 1

Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Hayden

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 2019.

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

SG325 Literature 5 – Medieval Irish Poetry (5 credits)

This module introduces students to the rich tradition of medieval Irish poetry. In order to appreciate the compository achievements of the poets, it is indispensable to be familiar with the key formal elements of syllabic poetry. After exploring the role of poetry and poets in early medieval Irish literature and society, the main focus of the module will be on the reading, the metrical analysis and the interpretation of exemplary pieces from the poetic tradition, e.g. the poem about the monk and his cat, specimens of nature poetry, and excerpts from the long religious poetry.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours + 2 tutorial hours

Time and Venue: Tue 12:00 [HB] and Thu 12:00 [RH2.21]

Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Hayden, Prof. David Stifter, Dr Elizabeth Boyle

Assessment:

- (a) 30% continuous assessment (written assignment).
- (b) 70% University-scheduled written examination (60 min) May 2019.

SG327 Literature 6 – Fenian Literature (5 credits)

This module will focus on the medieval Irish saga literature known as *fíanaigecht*, that is, literature concerned with Finn mac Cumail and his *fíán* ('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: Wed 12:00 [SE234] and Fri 12:00 [SE236]

Lecturer: Daniel Watson

Assessment:

- (a) 50% Continuous Assessment (2.000–2.500 words).
- (b) 50% University-scheduled written examination (60 min) in May 2019.

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: TBA

Lecturer: Daniel Watson

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 2019.

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. This module studies the Viking impact in Ireland during this period.

Teaching & Learning Methods: 24 lecture hours

Time and Venue: Tue 12:00 [T7] and Thu 12:00 [IONSEM]

Lecturers: Dr. Colmán Etchingham

Assessment: Total marks 100% awarded on the basis of 50% each for two essays from four set topics; details and deadlines will be announced in class and/or electronically.

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).

Timetable (2018–9): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3rd Year
Semester 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00				SG324 [HH]	
10:00					
11:00		SG353 [SE009]			
12:00			SG328 [RM62]	SG324 [SE233]	
13:00					
14:00					
15:00	SG353 [LY3]			SG328 [RM61]	
16:00					
17:00					

Timetable (2018–9): Medieval Irish and Celtic Studies, 3rd Year
Semester 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00					
10:00					
11:00					
12:00		SG325 [HB] SG354 [T7]	SG327 [SE234]	SG354 [IONSEM] SG325 [RH2.21]	SG327 [SE236]
13:00					
14:00					
15:00					
16:00					
17:00					