



HIST*2190 Celtic Ireland and Britain in the Early Middle Ages

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of History

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - December 27, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course will explore the Celts of Ireland and Britain from the time of the druids to the post-millennium emergence of literature relating to a king called Arthur. Reflecting on what we know of the Celts, how we know it, and what the term means, the course will examine topics such as the development of kingdoms and elite 'heroic' culture, the spread of Christianity, the law, everyday life and the family, art and literature, and the interaction between the Celts and their neighbours.

Pre-Requisites: 2.00 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course will explore the Celts of Ireland and Britain from the time of the druids down to the post-millennium world where we discover the emergence of literature relating to a king called Arthur. The course centres on the period 400-1100AD. The following three questions underpin this course; what do we know of the Celts?, how do we know it?, and what is meant by the term 'Celtic'? We will examine topics such as the development of Celtic kingdoms, the heroic ethos, the spread of Christianity and the cults of saints, everyday life and the family, the 'golden age' of Celtic art and manuscript, within which an extensive body of Celtic literature is found, and also the interaction between the Celtic-speaking world and its neighbours and foes. A historical and chronological framework is followed, as the course examines cultural change and developments to ca 1100AD.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesday and Thursday, 1.00pm-2.20pm, in MINS, Rm 106.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam date and time: 16 April, 11.30am-1.30pm. Location: TBA. Please note that time and location are subject to change. See WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Bronagh Ni Chonail
Email:	bnichona@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	519-824-4120 X56609
Office:	MCKNEXT 1017
Office Hours:	Thursday · 11.30am-12.30pm

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

E-book: J. T. Koch (ed.), Celtic culture: a historical encyclopedia 5-vol. (Santa Barbara, 2006) (Readings)

Available through library catalogue

E-Book: B. Maier, The Celts A history from earliest times to the present (Edinburgh, 2003) (Readings)

Available through library catalogue.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the Celtic-speaking peoples in the time period of the course
 2. think critically about the textual and visual evidence available for the study of this period
 3. analyze source material pertaining to the emergent political and cultural concepts of Ireland, Scotland and Wales
 4. enhance your skill-set necessary to construct a piece of written work to an acceptable standard
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Week 1

Topics: **Unit 1: Setting the Scene**

07 January Lecture 1 Celtic: an introduction to the course
09 January Lecture 2 Peoples, locations and influences

In class texts: Classical Authors on their Celtic neighbours

E-readings noted are taken from the following two e-resources available through the library catalogue:

J. T. Koch (ed.), *Celtic Culture: a Historical Encyclopedia* (2005, hereafter **CCHE**), and B. Maier, *The Celts* (2003, hereafter **TC**).

CCHE entries: Antonine Wall; Asterix; Carnyx; Celtomania; see entry under Druids; Hadrian's Wall; La Tene

TC: pp. 115-6

Week 2

Topics: 14 January Lecture 3 Transformations and languages
16 January Lecture 4 Kings, kings and more kings

In class texts: Gildas & Heroic Poetry: Taliesin and Aneirin

Reading:

CCHE entries: Aneirin; Bard; Brythonic; Dal Riata; Gildas; Gododdin; Heroic ethos in early Celtic literatures; Picts; Scots / Scoti; Taliesin; Urien of Rheged

TC: pp. 132-133; 152-153; 159-161; 169-171

Week 3

Topics:

21 January Lecture 5 Conversion
23 January Lecture 6 Society & Saints

In class texts: The Writings of St Patrick & Penitentials

Reading:

CCHE entries: Christianity in the Celtic Countries; monasteries; religious beliefs ancient Celtic

TC: pp. 129-131

Week 4

Topics: **Unit 2 Daily Life and Law**

28 January Lecture 7 Social Structure
30 January Lecture 8 Family: marriage, divorce, and dependents

In class texts: Legal writings

Reading:

CCHE entries: fosterage; genealogies; kinship; law texts; Senchas Mar; tuath

TC: pp. 129-130

Week 5

Topics:

04 February Lecture 9 Law and Order
06 February Lecture 10 The Courts and Punishment

In class texts: The writings of St Patrick and Penitentials

Reading:

TC: pp. 124-129; 157; 167-169

Week 6

Topics: **Unit 3: The Church**

11 February Lecture 11 The Cult of Saints & the Position of the Church
13 February Lecture 12 MID-TERM

In class texts: Adomnán's Life of Columba and the 'Law of the Innocents'

Reading:

CCHE entries: Adonman; Brigit; Cain Adomnain; Colum Cille; Dewi Sant (Saint David);

hagiography in the Celtic countries; Patrick.

TC: pp. 157; 141-144

WINTER BREAK

Week 7

Topics: **Unit 4: Art, Artefact and Literature**

25 February Lecture 13 Art and Education

27 February Lecture 14 Artefact and Manuscript

In class: Artefacts

Reading:

CCHE entries: Armagh, book of; see entry 'art, Celtic'; Deer, book of; Durrow, book of; Kells, book of; Ogam inscriptions; Tara Brooch.

TC: pp. 27-29; 158-159

Week 8

Topics: 03 March Lecture 15 The medieval Celtic Saga
05 March Lecture 16 Family, Feuding and Fatalities

In class texts: Selection of sagas

Reading:

CCHE entries: Cu Chulainn; Irish literature (early prose); Medb and Ailill; Mythological Cycle; Otherworld; Ulster Cycle of Tales; voyage literature

TC: pp. 136-141

Week 9

Topics: **Unit 5: The Presence of Others & the Millennium**

10 March Lecture 17 The Vikings

12 March Lecture 18 Contact and Communication and still more Vikings!

In class texts: Annals and narratives

Reading:

CCHE entry: high crosses

TC: pp. 134-135; 154

Week 10

Topics: 17 March Lecture 19 New Kingdoms, New Neighbours
19 March Lecture 20 A Wider World

In class texts: Annals and a letter

Reading:

CCHE entries: Alba; Annals; Armes Prydein

TC: pp. 135-136; 147-148

Week 11

Topics: **Unit 6: A New Era?**

24 March Lecture 21 The Celts and the Anglo-Cambro-Normans

26 March Lecture 22 An Arthur The Celts and the Anglo-Cambro-Normans

In class texts: Arthurian texts

Reading:

CCHE entries: see 'Arthur'

TC: pp. 179-183

Week 12

Topics: 31 March Lecture 23 ca 1100AD and a look beyond
02 April Lecture 24 A Review

Reading: **TC:** pp. 1-6; 249-253

6 Assessments

Final grades are calculated on the basis of the following assignments and weightings. NOTE that detailed information and guidance relating to these assignments are posted separately

on CourseLink.

6.1 Assessment Details

Term Paper Proposal (5%)

Due: Thu, Jan 30, 6:00 PM

Week 3: Step 1: E-mail Prof. to note your selection / topic (on or by Thurs. 23rd Jan.)

Week 4: Step 2: Submit proposal (Thurs. 30th Jan.)

Midterm (in class) (20%)

Due: Thu, Feb 13

Take-Home Assignments (3 x 5%) (15%)

Due: Thurs. of Weeks 2, 3, 9

Thurs. 16th Jan. (Week 2)

Thurs. 23rd Jan. (Week 3)

Thurs. 12th March (Week 9)

Please submit assignments in Word format through Dropbox, by 6.00PM on each given Thursday.

Term Paper (30%)

Due: Thu, Mar 19, 1:00 PM

Please submit one copy in Word format through Dropbox AND one paper copy to be submitted at class on (or before) Thurs. March 19th. Both copies must be received.

Final Exam (30%)

Date: Thu, Apr 16, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Room TBA

Please note that time and location are subject to change. See Webadvisor for the latest information,

7 Course Statements

7.1 Course Policies

In relation to the Term Paper due March 19, please submit ONE copy through Drop-box by 1.00pm AND submit ONE paper copy in class on Thurs. March 19.

All other assignments to be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Courselink, on or by the due date indicated. Any assignment submitted late will be penalized five percent per day.

Please submit in-course assignments through Drop-box in Word format.

7.2 TURNITIN

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not

relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
