



SYLLABUS

Medieval Irish Topics (in English)

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1 University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Letters
1.3 Department	English Language and Literature
1.4 Field of study	Philology
1.5 Study cycle (BA/MA)	MA
1.6 Study program/Qualification	Irish Studies/MA in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

Information about the subject								
2.1 Course title/Code		Medieval Irish Topics (in English)				Course code		LME1117/2117
2.2 Course tutor		Prof. Adrian PAPAHAĞI						
2.3 Seminar tutor		Prof. Adrian PAPAHAĞI						
2.4 Year of study	I	2.5 Semester	1	2.6 Type of assessment	E	2.7 Course status	Contents	DA
							Mandatory	DO

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	2	of which: 3.2 course	0	3.3 seminar	2
3.4 Total number of hours in the curriculum	28	of which: 3.5 course	0	3.6 seminar	28
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					Hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					30
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					30
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					30
Tutoring					5
Assessment (examinations)					2
Other activities:					
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					97
3.8. Total hours per semester					125
3.9. Number of credits					5

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 Curriculum	BA in humanities
4.2 Skills	Good knowledge of English, analytical skills

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. For delivering lectures	• OH projector
5.2. For teaching seminars/laboratory classes	• OH projector



6. Acquired specific skills

Professional/ essential skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interact professionally in research and professional environments; - apply scientific methods; - apply research ethics and scientific integrity principles in research activities; - perform scientific research; - manage research data; - manage personal professional development; - think abstractly; - promote the transfer of knowledge; - publish academic research; - draft scientific or academic papers and technical documentation; - write scientific publications; - synthesise information; - speak different languages; - provide information in writing
Transversal skills	

7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring in-depth knowledge about early medieval Irish culture.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the course, students are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of early medieval Irish manuscript culture, of Christian Hiberno-Latin literature, and of vernacular, mainly mythological texts (studied in English translation)

8. Contents

8.2 Seminars	Teaching methods	Notes
S1-2: Early Christian Ireland: The Latin Tradition	Lectures, discussions, text analysis, reading manuscripts	
S3-4: Insular Manuscript Culture		
S5-6: Early Medieval Ireland: The Vernacular Tradition		
S7: A Distant Mirror: Gerald of Wales on Ireland		
S8-14: Students' presentations	Students' presentations	
Bibliography		
C1-2		
Adomnán of Iona, <i>Life of Saint Columba</i> , ed. & tr. by Richard Sharpe, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1995. [BCU]		
DN Dumville (ed.), <i>Saint Patrick AD 493-1993</i> , Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 1993. [photocopy AP]		
TF O'Rahilly, 'The Two St. Patricks', lecture at the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, 1942. [photocopy AP]		
Dáibhí Ó Cróinín (ed.), <i>A New History of Ireland I. Prehistorical and Early Ireland</i> , Oxford UP, 2005. [BCU]		
T. M. Charles-Edwards, <i>Early Christian Ireland</i> , Cambridge UP, 2000. [Irish Library]		
Luwig Bieler, <i>Ireland, Harbinger of the Middle Ages</i> , Oxford UP, 1961. [photocopy AP]		
Thomas Cahill, <i>How the Irish Saved Civilisation</i> , London: Hodder & Stouton, 2003. [BCU]		
C3-4		
Bernard Meehan, <i>The Book of Durrow</i> , Dublin: Town House, 1996. [AP]		
Bernard Meehan, <i>The Book of Kells</i> , London: Thames & Hudson, 1995. [AP]		
M. Herity, A. Breen, <i>The Cathach of Colum Cille: An Introduction</i> , Dublin, 2002. [AP]		
Bernhard Bischoff, <i>Latin Palaeography</i> , tr. by Dáibhí Ó Cróinín and David Ganz, Cambridge UP, 1990. [AP]		
Michelle P. Brown, <i>A Guide to Western Historical Scripts from Antiquity to 1600</i> , London: The British Library, 1993.		

Date of approval:

Name and signature of Dean:



[photocopy AP]

C5-6

The Táin. From the Irish Epic Táin Bó Cuailnge, tr. by Thomas Kinsella, Oxford UP, 1970. [BCU]

Tales of the Elders of Ireland, tr. by Ann Dooley & Harry Roe, Oxford UP, 1999. [BCU]

Jeffrey Gantz (ed. & tr.), *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1981. [BCU]

Nora Chadwick, *The Celts*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1971. [BCU]

Robin Flower, *The Irish Tradition*, Dublin: Lilliput Press, 1994 (1st edn 1947). [BCU]

James MacKillop, *Dictionary of Celtic Mythology*, Oxford UP, 1998. [Irish Library]

C7

Gerald of Wales, *The History and Topography of Ireland*, tr. by John J. O'Meara, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982. [BCU]

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

The course uses and refines the students' knowledge of Irish and British medieval culture acquired during the BA programme, and provides an in-depth study of early Irish manuscript and literary culture. The course is similar to those provided by English and Irish universities: cf. Cambridge, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic – <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/about/subjects.htm>, Trinity College Dublin, *Early Irish* course – <http://www.tcd.ie/courses/undergraduate/az/course.php?id=32> etc.

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Lectures			
10.5 Seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well organized and well documented oral presentation. 	Oral presentation	1000%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate understanding & proper use of notions and concepts. Knowledge of studied texts, authors, manuscripts. Reading a facsimile from an Irish manuscript. A good command of written and oral English (C1). Using AI tools for generating ideas or discourse is allowed only with the tutor's permission and with explicit acknowledgment. This applies to both class discussions or assessment tasks and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI amounts to plagiarism. According to UBB regulations, plagiarism of any type triggers expulsion from university studies. 			
Organizational details, exceptional situation management:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

	General label for Sustainable Development

Date of approval:
Name and signature of Dean:



Date:
10.02.2025

Course tutor's name and signature
Prof.dr. Adrian Papahagi

Seminar tutor's name and signature /
Practical course tutor's (Laboratory
tutor's) name and signature,
Prof.dr. Adrian Papahagi

Date of approval:
15.02.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,
Lect.dr. Petronia Petrar

Date of approval:
Name and signature of Dean: