CELTIC MYTHOLOGY AND EARLY IRISH LITERATURE – GAH 2374
MWF 12:45-2:00
WEST QUAD 103

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This is a W2 Writing Intensive Course

REQUIRED BOOKS
Early Irish Myths and Sagas. Translated by Jeffrey Gantz. Penguin Classics.
Tales of the Elders of Ireland. Oxford

September
9 Introduction to the course; selected poems from Celtic Miscellanies
11 General introduction to the Celtic way of life
13 The Ancient Celts, chapter 1, 2
   [Deadline to drop courses with 100% refund.]
16 The Ancient Celts, chapter 3
18 The Ancient Celts, chapter 4
20 The Ancient Celts, chapter 5
23 The Ancient Celts, chapter 6, 7
25 The Ancient Celts, chapter 8, 9
27 The Ancient Celts, chapter 10
30 The Ancient Celts, chapter 10

October
2 The Ancient Celts, chapter 11, 12
4 The Ancient Celts, chapter 13

7 The Ancient Celts, Review
9 Examination on The Ancient Celts
   [October 10 is deadline for withdrawal of courses with 50% refund]
Early Irish Myths and Sagas, “The Labour Pains of the Ulaid & The Twins of Macha,” “Tale of Macc Da Tho’s Pig”; Discussion of Writing

“The Destruction of Da Derga’s Hostel”
“The Birth of Cu Chulaind,” “The Boyhood Deeds of Cu Chulaind”
“The Death of Aife’s only Son”
“The Wasting Sickness of Cu Chulaind & The Only Jealousy of Emer”

“The Wooing of Etain
“The Intoxication of the Ulaid”; First Essay Due
“Bricriu’s Feast”

“The Exile of the Sons of Uisliu”

Examination on Early Irish Myths and Sagas

November
1 Samhain
4 Introduction to The Tain, “Before the Tain”
6 Preceptorial Advising – no classes
8 The Tain
11 The Tain
13 The Tain
15 The Tain
18 The Tain
20 The Tain
22 The Tain
25 The Tain; Second Essay Due
27 The Tain
29 Thanksgiving

December
2 Tales of the Elders of Ireland, chapter 1
4 Tales of the Elders of Ireland, chapter 2 (pp. 33-46)
6 Tales of the Elders of Ireland, chapters 11, 12 & epilogue (pp. 192-223)
9 Story Telling
11 Story Telling
13 Story Telling
16 No Class
18 Final class meets 11:30-2:00; Third essay due; The Two Towers opens.
**Evaluation:**
- Examination on *The Ancient Celts* 25%
- Examination on *Early Irish Myths and Sagas* 25%
- First Essay 10%
- Second Essay 15%
- Third Essay 15%
- Story Telling 10%

**Some words of caution:**
I intend to rigorously enforce the due date in this syllabus. Plan accordingly.

I will not give incompletes at the end of the semester unless you have warned me well in advance and have appropriate reasons.

It is not my duty to make sure that you have handed in all appropriate assignments; it is your duty.

If you are absent an excessive number of classes your grade will suffer. (Remember, most professors and students consider three misses an acceptable number.)