COURSE DETAIL

THE BRITISH CELTS
Country Ireland
Host Institution University College Dublin
Program(s) University College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History Celtic Studies
UCEAP Course Number 132
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE BRITISH CELTS
UCEAP Transcript Title BRITISH CELTS
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course gives an overview of the early history of the Celtic-speaking peoples in Britain. After outlining what is known of Late Iron Age Britain, the course studies the wide-ranging changes caused by Roman Conquest, and examines what can be learned from various types of evidence about aspects of daily life, art and religion. When the Romans left it considers what was their enduring legacy, and what the newly independent Britain was once again like before the arrival of a new external threat with the coming of Germanic speakers, the ancestors of the English. These are the 'Dark Ages' in terms of scanty direct textual documentations, when traditions associated with the enigmatic but influential figure of Arthur developed. The course also examines the emergence of new kingdoms and sees how Christianity spread over the whole land. Finally it looks at the languages and written culture of late antique and early medieval Britain, starting with the earliest evidence of the British Celtic languages such as curse tablets and burial stones, but focusing on medieval Welsh literature, such as the heroic poems and the magical Mabinogion narratives, which are read in translation.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
CCIV10030

Host Institution Course Title
THE BRITISH CELTS

Host Institution Course Details
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Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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