CELTIC STUDIES PROGRAM
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2026-2027

Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Preliminary Timetable subject to change.

All courses will be offered In Person except where noted.

For the most up-to-date day and time information, please review the Timetable Builder.

CLT110H1F: CELTIC MYTHOLOGY AND SAGA

Instructor: Brent Miles

The medieval Celtic nations were home to one of the richest imaginative literary traditions of Western Europe. This course will introduce students to the literature from medieval Ireland and Wales that portrayed both the adventures of the Celtic gods and goddesses, and heroic 'saga', by which is meant the exploits of Ireland's and Britain's prehistoric heroes. The course will also trace continuities in the storytelling of medieval Ireland and Wales with the culture of the Continental Celts of Antiquity, and will include examination of the role of literacy and the advent of Christianity on the islands' native mythologies. The course assumes no prior familiarity with Celtic literature and history and all texts will be read in English translation.

Exclusions: CLT250H1, SMC250Y1, SMC250H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

CLT141Y1: INTRODUCTION TO THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Instructor: TBA

This course in Modern Irish Language is designed for learners with no prior knowledge of the language. The course is intended to introduce students to and provide practice in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Exclusions: SMC141Y1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT240H1F: THE CELTS IN THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD

Instructor: Brent Miles

An introduction to the culture and literature of the Celtic peoples in pre-history and in the Middle Ages.

Exclusions: SMC240Y1, SMC240H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT241H1S: IRISH AND BRITISH IDENTITIES FROM MACBETH TO YEATS
Instructor: Brent Miles
An introduction to evolving constructions of national and Celtic identities in Ireland and Britain in literature, art, and culture from 1600 to the mid twentieth century.
Exclusions: SMC240Y1, SMC241H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT242Y1Y: AN INTRODUCTION TO SCOTTISH GAELIC
Instructor: TBA
An introduction to Scottish Gaelic language and culture. Students will master fundamentals of reading, writing, and the basics of grammar and will begin to speak Gaelic. Proverbs, poetry, songs and folktales introduce students to the language, literature and folklore of Gaelic Scotland and immigrant North America. No prior knowledge of the language is required.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT251H1F: INTERMEDIATE IRISH LANGAUGE I
Instructor: TBA
This course builds on CLT141Y1 Introduction to the Irish Language. It will provide further expansion of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Exclusions: SMC251H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT252H1S: INTERMEDIATE IRISH LANGAUGE II
Instructor: TBA
This course is a continuation of CLT251H1 Intermediate Irish Language I. It will provide further expansion of language skills. We will examine literary texts, both prose and poetry.
Exclusions: SMC252H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT331H1F: ADVANCED IRISH LANGAUGE I
Instructor: TBA
An advanced course in the Irish language, this builds on the speaking, listening, reading and writing competencies developed in CLT251H1 and CLT252H1 (Intermediate Irish Language I and II).
Exclusions: SMC333H1 (Special Topics in Celtic Studies I: Advanced Irish Language), offered in Fall 2018, SMC331H1

Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT332H1S: ADVANCED IRISH LANGAUGE II
Instructor: TBA
An advanced course in the Irish language, this builds on the speaking, listening, reading and writing competencies developed in CLT331H1 (Advanced Irish Language I).
Exclusions: SMC333H1 (Special Topics in Celtic Studies I: Advanced Irish Language), offered in Fall 2018, SMC331H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT333H1F LEC0101: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CELTIC STUDIES I: SALLY ROONEY AND COMPANY: CONTEMPORARY IRISH FICTION
Instructor: Charlie Foran
As recent film adaptations and book prizes attest, contemporary Irish fiction has become a global phenomenon. This course explores how novelists Sally Rooney, Anna Burns, Claire Keegan, Kevin Barry and Anne Enright engage with the evolutions of 21st century Ireland, the varying and conflicting notions of Irish identity, and with the literary heritage they have inherited.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT333H1S LEC0101: SPECIAL TOPICS IN CELTIC STUDIES I: THE UNION, THE EMPIRE AND THE IRISH FAMINE
Instructor: Padraic Scanlan
This course explores the history of the 'Great Hunger,' the famine that struck Ireland from 1845-1851, after the repeated failure of potato crops. The famine was a complex catastrophe: an ecological, economic, logistical, and political crisis shaped by the legacies of English conquest and British colonialism, and by Ireland's position within the United Kingdom. The course focuses on understanding the famine within both the context of the industrial era, and within a longer history of subsistence crises in both Ireland and the wider British imperial and colonial world.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT334H1F: CELTIC GOTHIC IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND
Instructor: TBA
This course explores the close relationship between the culture, history, and folklore of Ireland and Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall in the creation and perpetuation of central narrative and aesthetic tropes of Gothic literature. The course will study how the preoccupation with the past in much Gothic literature refracts tensions between cultural and ethnic centers and peripheries, and reflects social and cultural anxieties of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Students will

examine the characteristics and history of the Gothic mode and its role in negotiating the place of Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and Cornish cultures within a broader insular context. They will read a variety of post-1600 Irish and British texts on Gothic themes, with focus on such topics as hauntings, language of the supernatural, landscape, history, folklore, and religion.
Exclusions: CLT333H1 (Celtic Gothic) offered in Fall 2025
Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT335H1S: TOLKIEN AND THE MATTER OF BRITAIN (AND IRELAND)
Instructor: TBA
This course examines the works of J.R.R. Tolkien through the lens of his usage of Celtic tropes, literatures, mythologies and histories as a testimony to the fortunes of Celticity in Romantic and Victorian Britain. We will read his major works (focusing especially on The Silmarillion, Fall of Gondolin, and Lord of the Rings) as inspired by post-Victorian British and Irish poetics, historiography, and medievalist literature to trace how Tolkien both absorbed and transformed them to build a universe infused with Celtic nostalgia.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT337H1S: EARLY CELTIC HISTORY 450-1000
Instructor: Brent Miles
This course provides an overview of major political and social changes in Ireland, Wales and Scotland from the fifth through to the eleventh century. Classes will focus particularly on the profound cultural changes that followed the expansion of Christianity into Celtic Britain and Ireland. Discussions of events and social phenomena of the period will involve considerable engagement with primary sources of the time, including native literature of the Celtic nations. All course readings will be in English translation
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT340H1F: IRELAND TRANSFORMED, 1948-2020
Instructor: TBA
In 1948, Ireland was a rural, socially conservative, deeply religious and economically impoverished country. Today, it is an urban, socially progressive, secular and wealthy society – and one that is experiencing new sets of problems. This course examines how and why these changes came about, the nature of contemporary Ireland, and the challenges that lie ahead.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities / **Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT353H1S: THE SCOTTISH WITCH-HUNT IN ITS EUROPEAN CONTEXTS
Instructor: TBA
Class: Tuesday 11:00AM-1:00PM
This course will explore various aspects of witchcraft accusations in Scotland and place them within the European context. A major focus of the course will be exploring the questions that historians have raised about the European witch-hunts and how this has influenced the historiography of the Scottish witch-hunts. The course will also involve several different kinds of primary sources and include discussions of their value and limitations.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

CLT395Y1: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN CELTIC STUDIES
Instructor: TBA
Class: NA
A research project chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and approved by the Program Coordinator. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.
Prerequisites: Completion of 6.0 credits, at least 1.0 CLT credit
Exclusions: CLT396H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT396H1F/S: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN CELTIC STUDIES
Instructor: TBA
Class: NA
A research project chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and approved by the Program Coordinator. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.
Prerequisites: Completion of 6.0 credits, at least 1.0 CLT credit

Exclusions: CLT395Y1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT411H1F LEC0101: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CELTIC STUDIES I: NATURE POETRY OF IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES
Instructor: Stephen Tardif
The natural beauty of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales has been celebrated by poets for centuries. This seminar will offer a chronological survey of the verse inspired by these places from early medieval poems to the work of contemporary poets. Our primary aim will be to explore the wide range of responses that the distinctive climates of the Celtic nations has produced. This approach will open a comparative perspective on the poetic traditions of these places, and will allow us to consider the ethical, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of these traditions as well. While we will focus primarily on poetry written from within Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, we will also discuss the work of English and American poets who have written about these nations and their regions. Poets featuring in this seminar may, therefore, include: Burns, Wordsworth, Hopkins, Yeats, Dylan Thomas, Allen Ginsberg, Seamus Heaney, and Kathleen Jamie. Although any experience with poetry in an academic context will be an asset, no prior coursework is required.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT441H1S: INTRODUCTION TO OLD IRISH
Instructor: Brent Miles
Middle Welsh, the native Celtic language of medieval Wales, was for centuries the language in which the Welsh celebrated their medieval princes and ancestral heroes, was the medium for the preservation of native British legend and Welsh law, and was the vehicle for the earliest narratives of Arthur. Students will be introduced to reading and translating Middle Welsh, and by the course's end will have read one complete text of Middle Welsh literature in the original. Students will learn Welsh specifically but will also learn the characteristic linguistic features of a Celtic language. No prior knowledge of Welsh or any other Celtic language is assumed.
Prerequisites: 9.0 credits or permission by the instructor
Exclusions: SMC440Y1, SMC440H1
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

CLT451Y1: SENIOR ESSAY IN CELTIC STUDIES
Instructor: TBA
Class: NA
A scholarly project chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty supervisor and approved by the Program Coordinator. A full proposal including a course description, working bibliography, marking scheme, and approval from your academic supervisor must be submitted for approval by the Program Coordinator and Director. More information and application forms are available at https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academic-forms or from the SMC Principal's Office, smc.programs@utoronto.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Principal's Office by the

first day of classes in September/May for F courses, or January/July for S courses. Meeting times are determined in consultation with your supervisor, and may be in person or online as appropriate. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.
Prerequisites: Completion of 10.0 credits and students must be enrolled in a CLT Minor or Major program; have taken at least 2.0 CLT credits with a B+ average.
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities

SMC165H1F: SMC ONE: THE BOYLE SEMINAR IN SCRIPTS AND STORIES
Instructor: Alison More
This seminar introduces students to university-level studies through an interdisciplinary exploration of Celtic influences in the medieval world, with a particular focus on early books and historical artefacts as physical objects and bearers of meaning. Students will learn how to read and analyse these books and artefacts. Subjects discussed will include intercultural encounter and dialogue, research methods with historical sources, and the relationship between the written word and lived experience, then and now. A co-curricular, optional travel opportunity to Ireland may be associated with this course. If the trip is offered and you choose to go, an ancillary fee is required to help cover a portion of the travel costs. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.
https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/smc-one-boyle-seminar
Prerequisites: None
Exclusions: None
Distribution Requirements: Humanities **/ Breadth Requirements:** Creative and Cultural Representation (1)