

Module Code	HPCS5011
Title	Relics of the Celtic Revival: Ten Key Texts in Context
Date	28/04/2025
Level	5
Credits	20
Pre-Requisites	None
DBS Check	May be required ☐ Not required ☒

AIM(S)

- To introduce students to a range of key texts from the Celtic revivalist movements of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early-twentieth centuries, analysing them in detail and placing them in their historical and cultural context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Gain an understanding of the major historical watersheds in Celtic revivalism, and an ability to analyse the ways in which these developments influenced the production of scholarly, literary, political, and cultural texts
- Learn the skills needed to synthesize very different kinds of source (be they novels, scholarly works, poems, societal transactions, or journalism) into a unified argument.
- Have the ability to analyse the works of major authors of the Celtic revival in and of themselves, but also in the context of more "minor" and marginalised works.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The Celtic revivals were a series of historical processes through which the Celtic-speaking cultures of Europe came to be valued for being distinctively Celtic, and began to proclaim the importance of this heritage in their literature, culture, and politics. This module will be structured around ten key texts in the history of Celtic revivalism, each being of vital importance to the development of Celtic revivalist movements, or indicative of significant currents within them. The texts will be ordered chronologically, from the eighteenth century to the twentieth, and will cover a range of Celtic-speaking regions – though with particular focus on Wales and Ireland. Through close reading of these texts, and consideration of them in their wider cultural context, students will gain a multi-faceted understanding of this influential and controversial period in the history of Celticity. The following is an example of the kinds of text that will be considered:

- The Constitutions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion* (1755)
- James Macpherson/Ossian, *Fragments of Ancient Poetry* (1760)
- William Owen Pughe and Iolo Morganwg, 'A Sketch of British Bardism', from *The Heroic Elegies and Other Pieces of Llywarç Hen* (1792)
- Sydney Owenson, *The Wild Irish Girl* (1806)

- Augusta Hall, *Advantages Resulting From the Preservation of The Welsh Language, and National Costumes of Wales* (1834)
- Ernest Renan, *La Poésie des Races Celtiques* (1854)
- Matthew Arnold, *On the Study of Celtic Literature* (1867)
- W. B. Yeats, *The Celtic Twilight* (1893)
- Fanny Parnell, 'To My Fellow Women' (1880) [as printed in *Bean na hÉireann*, February 1909]
- Saunders Lewis, 'Tynged yr Iaith' (1962) / David Jones 'The Sleeping Lord' (1974).

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning		
Independent learning	200	100%
Placement learning		
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

(Tick one)

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Essay	2,500 words	50%

Assessment Component 2

(Tick one)

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Essay	2,500 words	50%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	100%
Practical	
TOTAL	100%

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Module Code	HPCS5011	
Module Title	Relics of the Celtic Revival: Ten Key Texts in Context	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*

Essential	Brown, T. (ed). <i>Celticism</i> , Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1996.	☐
Essential	Stewart, I. <i>The Celts: A Modern History</i> , Princeton, NJ: Princeton, 2025	☐
Further	Constantine, M-A. <i>The Truth Against the World: Iolo Morganwg and Romantic Forgery</i> , Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2007.	☐
Further	Garrigan Mattar, S. <i>Primitivism, Science and the Irish Revival</i> , Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004.	☐
Further	Gaskill, H. (ed.) <i>The Poems of Ossian and Related Works</i> , Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1996.	☐
Further	Hutton, R. <i>Blood and Mistletoe: The History of the Druids in Britain</i> , New Haven: Yale, 2009.	☐
Further	Jenkins, G. H. (ed.) <i>A Rattleskull Genius: The Many Faces of Iolo Morganwg</i> , Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2002.	☐
Further	Leerssen, J. <i>Remembrance and Imagination: Patterns in the Historical and Literary Representation of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century</i> , Cork: Cork University Press, 1996.	☐
Further	Morgan, P. <i>The Eighteenth Century Renaissance</i> , Llandybie: Christopher Davies, 1981	☐
Further	Parker, J. <i>The Harp and the Constitution: Myths of Celtic and Gothic Origin</i> , Leiden: Brill, 2015.	☐
Further	Pittock, M. <i>Celtic Identity and the British Image</i> , Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 1999.	☐
Further	Williams, M. <i>Ireland's Immortals: A History of the Gods of Irish Myth</i> , Princeton, NJ: Princeton, 2016.	☐