



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Celtic religion and mythology	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Doc. dr. Rasa Baranauskiene Other(s):	Centre of Scandinavian Studies, VU Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
first	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Lectures and seminars	Autumn or spring term, according to the possibilities of the centre	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: B2 level of English according to CEFRL	Additional requirements (if any):

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	200	32	168

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
To acquire the knowledge of the theory of mythology and apply the theory in studying texts of classical authors as well as medieval Welsh and Irish authors, related to the pagan Celtic culture, mythology and rituals. To expand the cultural outlook and theoretical basis, to understand cultural and social phenomena, to develop analytical thinking and interdisciplinary approach to text and culture. To develop the ability to apply the acquired knowledge and understanding in different research projects, especially related to comparative mythology studies, to communicate information and use internet corpora.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will acquire: - the ability to plan time and observe deadlines (complete assignments on time); - fundamental knowledge of Celtic religion and mythology; - the ability to identify and evaluate different phenomena in Celtic religion and mythology; - the ability to use background information and information retrieval skills to formulate coherent questions in a discussion of a literary or cultural problem; - comprehensive knowledge of historical trends and issues that have shaped British, American, Canadian and Irish culture; - the ability to establish relevant comparisons between English-speaking cultures and institutions and one's own culture showing awareness of cultural specifics linked to religion and socio-economic background;	Interactive lectures and seminar discussions; analysis of theoretical texts and empirical material, oral presentations, practical exercises.	Cumulative evaluation: constructive participation in seminars, oral presentation, examination (could be split into mid-term and final)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to understand a wide variety of texts in English; - the ability to demonstrate speaking skills in English in a wide variety of contexts using appropriate terminology, grammar and register; - practical skills of obtaining information necessary to accomplish literary tasks using a variety of sources. 		
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Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Spiritual dimension of the Celtic society.	2		2				4	10	1. Reading and analysing texts related to the topic. 2. Preparation of a presentation on a chosen topic.
2. The nature of evidence, medieval tales distorted by Christian beliefs.	2		2				4	10	
3. Function of the Druids, poets and seers.	2		2				4	10	
4. Themes, aspects of mythology illustrated by Irish and Welsh stories: Kings and goddesses.	2		2				4	10	
5. Legends about the Boyne tombs.	2		2				4	10	
6. The Otherworld. Shapeshifting and rebirth.	2		2				4	10	
7. Myths in the Mabinogi.	2		2				4	10	
8. Origin legends of Ireland and the Irish.	2		2				4	10	
9. Examination								88	
Total	16		16				32	168	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Cumulative evaluation:			
Participation in seminars	10 %	during the semester	Ability to ask 'why' questions and participate in a meaningful discussion. Students must attend at least 65 % of the seminars.
Presentation on a chosen topic	40 %	during the semester when the relevant topic is discussed	Ability to present relevant well-structured information, ability to apply the selected theory, to keep the audience's attention and deal with questions.
Examination (could be split into mid-term and final)	50%	during the examination session	Assessment according to a 10-point scale: 10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly. 9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly. 8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly. 7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly. 6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly.

			5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met.
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
1.Carey, John.	1984	<i>The Celtic Heroic Age: Literary Sources for Ancient Celtic Europe and Early Ireland and Wales.</i>	Series, 1.	Celtic Studies Publications
2. MacCanna, Proincias	1983	<i>Celtic Mythology.</i>		London: Chancellor Press.
3.Ford, Patrick K.	1977	<i>The Mabinogi and Other Medieval Welsh Tales.</i>		Berkeley: University of California Press.
4. Gantz, Jeffrey	1981	<i>Early Irish Myths and Sagas.</i>		Penguin Classics.
5. MacKillop, James	1994	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of Celtic Mythology.</i>		Oxford University Press.
Optional reading				
Rhees, Alwyn and Rhees, Brinley	1989	<i>Celtic Heritage.</i>		Thames & Hudson Ltd.
Carey, John.	1999	<i>A Single Ray of the Sun: Religious Speculation in Early Ireland.</i>		Celtic Studies Publications.