Celtic Linguistics course handbook

Pavel Iosad

Welcome!

This course aims to give you a broad introduction to the linguistics of the Celtic languages. We will discuss the external history of the group, its place within Indo-European and its internal structure, and then move on to the structure of the individual languages within the group. We also discuss some properties of the Celtic languages that are of interest to linguistic theory, both in morphosyntax and in phonology.

1 Practical information

- Who: Pavel Iosad [ˈjɔːsəd]
- DSB 3.08, `pavel.iosad@ed.ac.uk`
- Guidance and feedback hour: Thursday 13:00–15:00
    - Also feel free to make an appointment or email
- Classes: Mon 11:10–13:00, Friday 11:10-12:00, in DSB 3.11
    - There are no classes in the week in which the assignment is due (w/c 5th November)
- Monday is always a lecture. From week 3, Fridays will be language analysis exercises in preparation for the midterm
    - You are expected to do the work for the Friday exercises. You will receive a text, an annotated glossary and pointers towards grammar resources. You will need to parse the text as best you can in advance of the session, and we will go over it in class.
    - We revert to Friday lectures after the midterm
- The course secretary, Susan Hermiston `lelinfo@ed.ac.uk`, is there for your administrative needs

2 Assessment and feedback

There are two elements to the assessment

- A take-home assignment, focused on language material analysis (40%). This will be made available at noon on Thursday 1st November, with a submission deadline of noon, Thursday 8th November. Submission and return of feedback is electronic via Turnitin.

- A final exam in December, including some elements of language material analysis, but mostly focused on the conceptual content of the course.

You will be expected to prepare for the language analysis exercises; this is not included in the formal assessment.

3   Resources

All lecture notes will be available through Learn. Readings will be indicated in the lecture notes.

A very useful reference that you can look at throughout is:

- Ball, Martin and Müller, Nicole (eds.). 2009. *The Celtic languages*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge. Available in the library and online.

There is also the first edition of this book (edited by Martin Ball with James Fife), and a *Celtic Languages* overview volume edited by Donald Macaulay. They have various strengths and weaknesses, but the Ball & Müller is probably the strongest overall, and has the best coverage.

4   Weekly plan

Week	Monday	Friday
1. Sep 17-21	Introduction. Celtic within the Indo-European family. Celtic origins and the ancient and early medieval periods	External history in the High Middle Ages and the early modern period.
2. Sep 24–28	Old Irish	Old Irish continued
3. Oct 1–5	Modern Irish	Old Irish language analysis exercise
4. Oct 8–12	Scottish Gaelic and Manx	Modern Irish language analysis exercise
5. Oct 15–19	Middle Welsh	Middle Welsh continued
6. Oct 22–26	Modern Welsh	Middle Welsh language analysis exercise
7. Oct 29–Nov 2	Breton and Cornish	Modern Welsh language analysis exercise
8. Nov 5–9	NO CLASS	ASSIGNMENT WEEK
9. Nov 12–16	Theoretical approaches: syntax. VSO and word order generally. Verbal nouns and agreement	Theoretical approaches: phonology. Lenition. Laryngeal realism.
10. Nov 19–23	Theoretical approaches: consonant mutations	Sociolinguistics of the modern languages.

Week	Monday	Friday
11. Nov 26–30		Q&A and exam feedforward