

LASC10092 Celtic, English, and Norse in Contact

Pavel Iosad

Welcome!

The topic of this course is the history of language contact in the Atlantic Isles between the end of Roman Britain and the early modern period. We will focus on the interaction of English with the two other groups of language varieties spoken here, namely Celtic and North Germanic (as well as interactions between the latter two). To achieve an understanding of these issues, we will cover the following topics:

- The historical background of language contact in the Atlantic Isles
- The main linguistic properties of the Celtic languages, ancient and modern
- The importance of the historical sociolinguistic setting for the type and outcome of language contact

With all this under our belt, we will proceed to examine the possibility of major contact influences on English.

The course assumes a basic familiarity with linguistic concepts. It does *not* require knowledge of any modern or ancient Celtic language. Those students who have taken Gaelic but not linguistics to second-year level will be expected to work independently on getting up to speed with the linguistic side of things (though obviously it always helps to ask questions, whether in class or in private)

1 Practical information

- Who: Pavel Iosad [ˈjɔːsəd]
- Dugald Stewart Building, room 3.08, pavel.iosad@ed.ac.uk
- Open house for any questions: Tue 12:00–13:30, but also feel free to make an appointment or just email
- I encourage you to use Twitter: I suggest the highly imaginative hashtag #lasc10092 Feel free to follow me @anghyflawn (as long as you don't mind the occasional rant)
- Classes:
 - Monday 11.10–12.00, 7 George Square, room G32
 - Thursday 15.10–16.00, Old Medical School, Basement Lecture Theatre (Doorway 6)
 - Friday 13.10–14.00, Old Medical School, Basement Lecture Theatre (Doorway 6)
- All these classes are lectures, but you are expected to do the weekly readings in advance from week 2 on
- The course secretary, Sam Bell sam.bell@ed.ac.uk, is there for your administrative needs

2 Resources

All lecture notes will be posted on Learn.

The readings for the next week will be given out on Monday of the current week at the latest

3 Assessment and feedback

The formal assessment for this course consists of two elements:

- A class test in the Friday slot of week 5, worth 30% of the mark. This will assess the material covered in weeks 1 through 4 (i.e. the historical background and linguistic properties of the Celtic languages). The test will consist of multiple choice questions and several short-answer questions.
- A final essay of approximately 3,000 words, with a submission deadline of **noon, Thursday 21st April**. The essay topics will be released at the end of the teaching period.

You will be offered the opportunity to discuss the progress of your essay and any questions you might have about a week before this submission date. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the feedback from your essay after it has been marked and moderated.

All coursework will be marked using the LEL Honours Marking Scheme: consult the LEL Honours Handbook.

4 Weekly plan

Week	Monday	Thursday	Friday
1. Jan 11–15	Course introduction. Celtic and the Anglo-Saxon conquest	Contact with Norse in England, Scotland, and Ireland	Language shift. 'Celtic Englishes'
2. Jan 18–22	Celtic language structures: Old Irish	Celtic language structures: Modern Irish phonology	Celtic language structures: Modern Irish morphosyntax
3. Jan 25–29	Celtic language structures: Scottish Gaelic	Celtic language structures: Middle Welsh	Celtic language structures: Modern Welsh phonology
4. Feb 1–5	Celtic language structures: Modern Welsh morphosyntax	Celtic language structures: Cornish and Breton	Sociolinguistics: introduction to language contact
5. Feb 8–12	Sociolinguistics: complexity and types of contact	Sociolinguistics: diagnosing language contact	Class test
6. Feb 15–19	Innovative	Learning	Week
7. Feb 22–26	The Celtic Hypothesis I	The Celtic Hypothesis II	The Celtic Hypothesis III
8. Feb 29–Mar 4	Norse and English I	Norse and English II	Norse and Gaelic in contact

Week	Monday	Thursday	Friday
9. Mar 7–11	'Celtic Englishes': Irish English I	'Celtic Englishes': Irish English II	'Celtic Englishes': Scotland
10. Mar 14–18	'Celtic Englishes': Welsh English	Cornwall & Brittany	Summary
