

**Course:** Irish Language and Heritage

**Course Code:** FLA 100

**Credits:** 3 credits

**Description:**

The Irish language (Gaeilge) is one of the oldest languages in Europe and can trace its roots back to the 4th century AD. Today, about one-seventh of the population of the Republic of Ireland speaks Irish, which amounts to about 500,000 people. This course, which is at beginner's level, will enable the student to gain a basic competence in the language, and will also provide for the study of aspects of Irish heritage including, built environment and natural environment, literature, ecology, food, dance, music and rural traditions.

**Aims of Course**

- To acquire a basic competency in the Irish language
- To gain a basic understanding of how the language works
- To deepen the awareness of Irish language and heritage among students
- To experience the richness of the Irish natural environment and the human environment through visits and fieldtrips

**Learning Goals**

- Make common greetings in Irish
- Recall and articulate basic Irish words and phrases accurately
- Express common needs in Irish
- Develop an interest in Irish heritage, language and literature
- Discover the some of the antiquities of the Irish landscape

**Course Objectives**

This course will be aimed at beginners using a communicative approach to language teaching with interaction between learners and tutors in the Irish language. The main approach will be on interactive games and exercises to enable the learner to gain competence and confidence in using simple phrases, common greetings and everyday language structures.

By the end of the course participants will have learnt how to engage in simple everyday interactions and will have acquired a basic knowledge of grammar. The heritage part of the course will be taught through the medium of English and will complement the learning of the Irish language. By the end of the course the student will have interacted with a number of guest lecturers who will introduce them to different aspects of Irish heritage and culture.

**Procedures**

**Lectures:** 6 hours per week.

Classes (2 in the morning) will be of 85 minutes duration either side of a ten-minute break. Students will be assigned readings, online tasks and video presentations. The courses aim to develop skills and knowledge through flexible delivery which will include active learning, collaborative group work, facilitated group discussion and structured activities. Tutors will endeavor to promote learner autonomy to enable students to achieve maximum potential from their courses. Questioning, debate and

discussion and interactive activities such as drama and role play will be integral to the delivery of lectures

**Field trips:** 5 hours per week.

National Museum, Kildare Street  
New Grange/Boyne Valley (day trip)  
Book of Kells/Trinity College  
Marsh's Library/St Patrick's Cathedral  
Glendalough/Powerscourt (day trip)  
Hurling match  
National Museum, Collins Barracks (fashion & jewelry)

**Assessment:**

A simple dialogue with the tutor in the Irish language on a chosen topic 40%  
An assignment based on either day trip 40%  
Engagement in class and on fieldtrips 20%

**Policy on Attendance**

Attendance at each class is mandatory. Students are required to sign in for each class. A record will be maintained by the lecturer.

**Reading List (Indicative)**

Eamonn Ó Donnill -Gramadach gan Stró! (2008) Gaelchultúr Teoranta Beatha Teanga – Daithí Ó Madáin – Instiúid Oideachais Marino  
Marie Heaney -The Names Upon The Harp: Irish Myths And Legends (2000) Scholastic Press  
Guide to the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology (2007) National Museum of Ireland  
Guide to the National Museum of Ireland –Decorative Arts and History (2007) National Museum of Ireland  
Guide to the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History (2007) National Museum of Ireland

## **Course Syllabus: Irish Language and Heritage**

**Day 1: Short Introduction to the language** (Donal Fallon)

Origins  
Where is it spoken today?  
Greetings, introductions  
Basic vocabulary in everyday use  
Pronunciation  
View *Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom* (short educational video)

Field trip: National Museum, Kildare Street (bog bodies, Bronze Age gold, etc.)

**Day 2: Day trip to Boyne Valley** (Gavin Finlay)

New Grange  
Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre  
Drogheda

Hill of Tara  
Monasterboice

**Day 3: The Irish Storytelling & Collecting Tradition** (Donal Fallon)

Seamus Ennis & the Irish Folklore Commission

Audio samples

Expressing likes/dislikes

Agreeing/disagreeing

Making invitations

Field trip: The Book of Kells/Trinity College

**Day 4: Irish traditional Irish Music & Dance—in history & practice** (Máirtín Tourish)

This 1-day module charts the evolution of Irish traditional music from the time of the great collectors of the eighteenth century to the birth of the dance show and the worldwide phenomenon it is today. Key points include cultural nationalism in music, the harping tradition, the golden period of Irish-American recordings, regional styles, *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*, the tune-types, Seán Ó Riada and the birth of the ensemble. Students will have the opportunity to learn to play a tune on the tin-whistle and learn a dance from the sean-nós tradition.

**General Aims of the Module:**

- **To introduce students** to the key points in the evolution of Irish traditional music.
- **To provide students with a discerning ear** for the various sub-genres, styles and ornaments used.
- **To give each of the students** an opportunity to experience learning Irish traditional music through the oral approach to cultural transmission.

**Learning Goals:**

- To have an knowledge of the key themes in the development of Irish traditional music.
- An understanding of the Irish-American recordings of the 1920s and 1940s and their impact on stylistic homogenisation in Ireland.
- To be able to identify the salient characteristics of the various regional styles and to distinguish the more popular tune type forms of instrumental music.

To be able to play a tune on the tin-whistle from George Petrie's *Ancient Music of Ireland* (1855) and perform a basic sean-nós step.

**Day 5: Exploring regional dialects** (Donal Fallon)

Talking about the weather

Ordering food/drink

Hobbies & work

View *Kings* (bilingual film about the Irish in Britain)

Field trip: Marsh's Library/St Patrick's Cathedral

**Day 6: Day trip to Wicklow** (Gavin Finlay)

Glendalough  
Powerscourt gardens & waterfall  
*Excalibur* Drive  
Military Road

**Day 7: The Irish Language Internationally** (Donal Fallon)

Effect of emigration  
Conversation  
Student evaluation

Field trip: National Museum, Collins Barracks (fashion & jewelry)

**Day 8: Introduction to Anglo-Irish Literature** (Gavin Finlay)

W.B. Yeats  
James Joyce  
*Dubliners*  
De-mystifying *Ulysses*  
Preparing for 'Bloom's Day' (16 June)

Field trip: Wexford v Dublin (hurling), 7pm Sat 8 June (previous WE).