

WS 410  
Celtic Myth, Legend & Spirituality  
Sat., Oct 24 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri. Oct 30,  
5:30-9:10 p.m.

Instructor: Patricia MacAodha, M.A.  
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Course Description:

This course offers a preliminary examination of the background of Celtic spiritual development through a study of myth and legend of the Insular Celtic people, and how the indigenous traditions combined with Christianity from the "Dark" Ages to the Irish Rebellion, and how the process is still evolving, both in Christianity and neo-Paganism.

Syllabus:

1. Myth and Mysticism in Celtic culture
  - A. Magical islands and mystical places
  - B. Recurring mythic themes in insular Celtic mythic literature
  - C. Gods & Goddesses, Heroes and Heroines
2. Teachers, healers, spiritual leaders
  - A. The Druid as mystic and educator
  - B. Natural healing –village healers
  - C. Druids to Priests
3. Women as Goddesses, Heroines and Saints
  - A. The maternal authority over kings
  - B. Clan structure and women
  - C. Wise Women/Seers
  - D. Paternal Supremacy as a Christian overlay
  - E. "Dark" Ages
    - 1.) Women of the Mater of Britain/Age of Saints
    - 2.) Uncomfortable coexistence between the two religions
    - 3.) St. Adarnan-disempowerment of women
    - 4.) Predominance of Christianity with Pagan "survivals"
4. Neo-Pagan, Celtic Pagan; syntheses between these and Christianity
5. Celtic Myth and Transformation to "Modern" Literature

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance & class participation
2. In-class writing and exercises
3. Final projects: research paper or in-class presentation
  - a. Presentations 8-10 minutes, can include artistic, dramatic, research Material, relevant scientific or spiritual inter-connections, mythic images, symbols or personalities. Handout and bibliog required.
  - b. Research Paper: 5-10 pages, bibliography not included in count, but required.

Speakers:

Arvana, a member of the Druid community in the Metropolitan area. Subject: Druidry  
Annette White-Parks – Professor Emerita, Wisconsin St Univ. subject: Bridget.