Module Content
This course surveys the archaeology of Ireland from c. 8000 BC to the coming of Christianity. The course begins with the background to human colonisation of this island. It traces the evidence for Ireland’s first colonists and their cultural development, seen in such sites as the hunting-fishing camp at Mount Sandel, up until the arrival of the earliest farming communities. The settlements, economies, megalithic tombs such as Newgrange and other ritual structures of Ireland’s first farmers are examined within the framework of both their environmental and social context. The course then takes up the earliest metal-using communities of the Bronze Age and follows the rise of bronze- and iron-using elites in Ireland. Special attention is given to sites such as Navan Fort, the problem of the origins of the Irish, to what extent earliest Irish traditional literature provides a ‘window on the Iron Age’, and the identification of the main problems in Irish prehistory.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module, students are expected to have:
- An appreciation of the main cultural changes that characterise the prehistoric period in Ireland;
- An awareness of major issues in the study of prehistoric Ireland;
- A familiarity with material cultural studies relevant to the study of Irish prehistory.

Skills
During the course of this module, students are expected to develop their skills in:
- Critical thinking;
- Oral and written presentation skills;
- Independent study;
- Use of library resources.

Teaching methods
The course is taught through a series of lectures, practicals, seminars, and a field trip. Lecture presentations will be placed on QOL in advance of each lecture. There are two lectures per week, except in Week 7 which has been designated a Reading Week to allow students time to catch up with key reading. Between weeks 2 and 11, practicals and seminars will alternate, and subject to class size, students may be split into two groups. All taught classes, with the exception of Practical 4 and 5, are held in G43, ArcPal Basement. Practical 4 and 5 will be held in the Ulster Museum (UM) and students should assemble in the main foyer of the UM at the designated time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>10:00 am–11:00 am</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminars/Practicals:</td>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>12:00 pm–1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trip</td>
<td>Friday 14 Oct.</td>
<td>9.00 am–5.00 pm   (meeting outside Elmwood Building)</td>
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</table>

Seminars will require students to undertake set reading in advance of the class. At the start of the semester, students will be assigned to a ‘blue’ or a ‘grey’ team. For each seminar, one team will support the seminar proposition, and the other will oppose it. Within the class, teams will take turns to argue their case and each student is expected to make a contribution to the debate. Details of the seminar topics and the required reading will be available on QOL. Students will have to submit a position paper on each of the seminar topics as part of their portfolio and are strongly advised to prepare a draft version of their respective position paper ahead of each seminar. It is in the interest of all students to engage fully with the seminars (including preparation for class and debate within the class).

Practicals will provide students with an opportunity to examine a range of prehistoric objects and to learn more about the technology behind their production. Please note that the venue for Practical 4, and 5 will
be the Ulster Museum – students are asked to make their own way to the Ulster Museum foyer by the appointed time.

The fieldtrip will take students to a range of prehistoric sites in mid-Ulster. The sites have been selected to give students a flavour of the types of sites that will be discussed in class. Students must assemble in the carpark outside the Elmwood Building by 8.50 am in order to depart promptly at 9.00 am on the designated day (Fri. 14 Oct.), and they will be dropped off at this point by 5.00 pm approximately (subject to no unforeseen delays in traffic). Students should wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear (i.e. be prepared for cold and wet weather, and to walk cross-country), and should wear sunblock if necessary – in other words, be prepared for all weathers! We will stop for lunch at An Creagán Visitor Centre, where you may either buy lunch/refreshments on the premises, or eat packed lunches at the picnic tables outside (only food purchased in the Centre may be eaten inside the Centre).

9.00 am Depart Elmwood Avenue
10.00-11.15 am Navan Fort
12.15-1.15 pm An Creagán – lunch and reconstruction of Bronze Age habitation
1.30-2.30 pm Dún Ruadh ring-cairn and stone circle
3.00-3.30 pm Creggan devesky court tomb
5.00 pm Return to Belfast

Teaching staff
Dr Dirk Brandherm (Module Co-Ordinator)
Dr Rowan McLaughlin
Prof. Caroline Malone
Dr Laura Basell

Queries about the module should be sent to Dr Dirk Brandherm by e-mail (d.brandherm@qub.ac.uk). Please ensure to include the module code (GAP2041) in the subject header of any email to avoid the e-mail being automatically deleted as junk mail.

Assessment scheme
Course Assessment consists of two components comprising the following elements:
1. Seminar portfolio (to be submitted electronically by 5 Dec.) 50%
2. Essay (to be submitted electronically by 12 Dec.) 50%

1. A 3,000-4,000 word essay or project will be on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the teaching staff (sample essay topics are listed below). Students must notify the Module Co-Ordinator of the agreed title of their essay no later than Week 10. The sooner you begin working on your essay, the more time you will have to develop and improve it. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing must be used with minimum page margins of 2.5 cm to ensure readability and allow space for feedback. Essays must be submitted using TurnitinUK. The final deadline for submission is 11.59 pm on Monday, 12 December, 2015. For guidance on preparation of an essay, referencing system, etc., please consult the relevant guidance documents from the ‘Shared Student Resources for SNBE’ folder on the School’s Sharepoint (accessed through Queens Online) at https://vle.qol.qub.ac.uk/sites/SNBE/SitePages/Home.aspx. Please note that you will loose marks for 1) not staying within the word limit of the essay, 2) not referencing material correctly in the text and/or 3) poorly constructed bibliographies/reference lists.

Essay Support Group meetings: In Weeks 5, 6 and 9, students will be asked to meet in small groups to consider essay topics and discuss the development of their essay/project plan. The aim of these meetings is to foster dialogue relating to the module content, to sharpen students’ focus on identifying and...
developing arguments/discourses, and to encourage mutual peer support. Responsibilities for chairing and taking notes at the meetings will be rotated amongst students within each group, and notes must be forwarded to the module co-ordinator after each meeting. The focus of the first meeting will be to brainstorm ideas for possible essay topics, bearing in mind each student’s personal interests (within the scope of the module, needless to say!) and strengths. Students should carry out some preliminary research in advance of the second meeting to determine how much work has previously been done on their selected topic(s) and what particular angles might be addressed in an essay; during the second meeting, students should then consider whether the proposed topic is feasible or not. By the third meeting, students should develop an essay plan, indicating the structure and main points that they intend to cover, and group members will provide constructive feedback. The Module Co-Ordinator will provide guidance as and when requested, and in addition will provide feedback on the essay plans. To provide an idea of the types of questions that students might choose to research for their essay, examples are provided below.

Sample essay topics
“When and why were megalithic tombs first constructed in Ireland?”
“Age and gender representation in Neolithic and Bronze Age burials”
“The earliest metalwork in Ireland—technology and background to its adoption”
“Changes in ritual practices in Ireland from Early to Late Bronze Age”
“Can we identify social hierarchy in Later Bronze Age Ireland?”
“Issues in recognising and interpreting cultural discontinuities in Later Prehistoric Ireland”
“The La Tène style in Ireland—how was it introduced, what is its significance?”

You are strongly encouraged to develop your own essays!

2. The seminar portfolio will consist of four separate 1,000-word position papers, one on each seminar topic. In their position papers, students will need to formulate an argument either supporting or attacking the respective seminar proposition. In doing so, students are not tied to their respective team position (‘blue’ or ‘grey’) from the classroom debate, but are encouraged to develop and argue their own position. You should think of your position papers as short essays focusing on the controversial aspects of the relevant topic. You will need to think about how best to make a concise, yet well-informed argument. Position papers must be fully referenced, and include a bibliography, just like a regular essay. Please consult the relevant guidance documents indicated above. The final deadline for submission is 11.59 pm on Monday, 5 December, 2015. The position papers must be submitted using Turnitin UK.

Marking criteria and regulations
Coursework and exams will be marked according to the University’s undergraduate marking criteria and conceptual equivalent scales, which can be found at:
http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/media/Media,464088,en.pdf

Regulations and penalties regarding plagiarism, collusion and fabrication are at:
http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/GeneralRegulations/Procedures/ProceduresforDealingwithAcademicOffences/

**Assignment Submission**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>% module</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Where to submit</th>
<th>Feedback due by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Instructions for submission of assignments
Essays must be uploaded onto TurnitinUK by 3.30 pm on the due date. Students are strongly urged to upload their assignments well in advance of the 3.30 pm deadline to avoid problems arising from slow
computers, technical problems, etc. Please refer to your Programme Handbook for details of the procedure for late submission of assignments and absence from classes. Submissions will be open for a week before the due date to allow students check that their work is original (i.e. not plagiarised) and to amend if necessary. Feedback will be returned through TurnitinUK. If a student wishes to receive further feedback on his/her essay or exam, he/she should email the Module Co-Ordinator to arrange an appointment for a one-to-one meeting.

Extensions for students registered with Disability Services
Students who are registered with Disability Services and have as part of their reasonable adjustments ‘flexibility with coursework deadlines’ may apply, if necessary, for an extension to the coursework submission date. The extension should, normally, be agreed with the Module Co-Ordinator in advance of the published submission deadline. Please use the ‘Reasonable Adjustment Extension Form’ available from the ‘Shared Student Resources for SNBE’ folder on the School’s Sharepoint (accessed through Queens Online): https://vle.qol.qub.ac.uk/sites/SNBE/SitePages/Home.aspx to record the new submission date. This form will be retained by the Module Co-Ordinator.

Reading list
The course textbook is:

The following sources cover a range of topics in Irish prehistory but is by no means exhaustive. There are many, many more to be found using search engines such as Google Scholar. Many national and local Irish journals can be found in the Library or accessed via JSTOR.

Carlin, N. 2011 Into the West: placing Beakers within their Irish contexts. In A.M. Jones & G. Kirkham (eds), Beyond the Core: Reflections on Regionality in Prehistory, Oxbow, Oxford.
Cleary, K. 2005 Skeletons in the closet: the dead among the living on Irish Bronze Age settlements. The Journal of Irish Archaeology XIV, 23–42.
O’Brien, W. 1999 *Sacred Ground: Megalithic Tombs in Coastal South-West Ireland*, Bronze Age Studies 4, Department of Archaeology, National University of Ireland, Galway.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26 Sept.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L1 Intro to module; where is the Irish Palaeolithic?</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 Sept.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L2 Early Mesolithic Ireland</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Oct.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L3 Later Mesolithic Ireland</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L4 The Neolithic &quot;package&quot;</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Practical 1: Lithics in prehistoric Ireland</strong></td>
<td>LB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10 Oct.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L5 Neolithic settlement</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L6 Neolithic economy</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 1: Who were Ireland's first farmers?</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Oct.</td>
<td>9–5 pm</td>
<td><strong>FIELDTRIP</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17 Oct.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L7 Neolithic technology &amp; trade</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L8 Megalithic tombs I: types &amp; early origins</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Practical 2: Pottery in prehistoric Ireland</strong></td>
<td>CM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24 Oct.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L9 Megalithic tombs II: social and ideological significance</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L10 Later Neolithic Ireland</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27 Oct.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 2: The origin of Ireland's megalithic tombs</strong></td>
<td>RMcL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Nov.</td>
<td>12-1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Essay Support Group Meeting 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>31 Oct.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L11 Beakers and early metallurgists</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L12 Earlier Bronze Age burial and ritual</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Practical 3: Metalwork in prehistoric Ireland I</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10 Nov.</td>
<td>12-1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Essay Support Group Meeting 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>14 Nov.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L13 Bronze Age metalwork and technology</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L14 Bronze Age settlement and economy</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 3: Environmental forcing of cultural change in Later Prehistoric Ireland</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>21 Nov.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L15 Later Bronze Age transformations</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L16 The Bronze Age / Iron Age transition</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Practical 4: Pottery in prehistoric Ireland II (venue: UM)</strong></td>
<td>CM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Essay Support Group Meeting 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>28 Nov.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L17 Early Iron Age settlements and royal centres</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Nov.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L18 Language and Irish origins</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Dec.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 4: The Celtic Question</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5 Dec.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L19 Iron Age art and technology</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Dec.</td>
<td>11.59 pm</td>
<td><strong>Seminar portfolio due on TurnitinUK</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 Dec.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L20 The world of Cú Chulainn</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 Dec.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Practical 5: Metalwork in prehistoric Ireland II (venue: UM)</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 Dec.</td>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td><strong>L21 The Late Iron Age</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Dec.</td>
<td>11.59 pm</td>
<td><strong>Essay due on TurnitinUK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Dec.</td>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td><strong>L22 Iron Age Ireland in a changing world</strong></td>
<td>DB</td>
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*Student-led meetings – student groups must each agree a venue either on or off campus. Rooms can be booked on request in the McClay Library or in the School.*