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Celtic Languages
A Comparative & Historical Introduction to Old Irish

Cross-listed as:
LING 4195/6195 • ENGL 4195/6195 • CMLT 4110/6110

When:
Summer Short Session I — 11:45 - 2:00 Daily

Who:
Dr. Ranko Matasović
(University of Zagreb, Croatia)

Old Irish is the best attested Celtic language from the medieval period. It has rich and original literature, and its archaic vocabulary and complex morphology make it very important for Indo-European linguistics. This course will begin with an overview of the chief phonological developments separating Old Irish from other Celtic and Indo-European languages. We will then study the elements of Old Irish phonology and morphology, and in the second part of the course we will also read some simple prose and verse texts. While reading simple sentences, we will learn the etymologies of the basic vocabulary of Old Irish, and the morphological categories will be compared with cognates in other Celtic and Indo-European languages. Emphasis will also be placed on typological peculiarities of Old Irish syntax.

Ranko Matasović was born in Zagreb in 1968. He received his Ph. D. from the University of Zagreb in 1995. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1997-98, a Humboldt Fellow in Bonn University, in 2002-03, and a guest professor in the University of Leiden in 2008. He is currently full professor of comparative linguistics in the University of Zagreb and a junior Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He was an invited lecturer in the universities and linguistic institutes in Madison, Yale, Bonn, Berlin, Jena, Mainz, Düsseldorf, Macerata, Naples, Leiden, Helsinki, Vienna, Moscow, Paris, Oxford, Ljubljana, Zadar, Rijeka, Osijek, and Sarajevo. Ranko Matasović’s scientific interests include comparative Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, and Celtic linguistics, Caucasian languages, and language typology. He has published ten books, including Gender in Indo-European (Heidelberg, 2004) and Etymological Dictionary of Proto-Celtic (Leiden, 2009). He is married and has three children. His hobbies include horseback riding, cycling, and playing tin whistle.

This course is made possible through the summer 2011 Franklin International Scholars Program (FISP)

The purpose of the Franklin International Scholars Program is to move beyond traditional paradigms of student study abroad and pursue substantive faculty collaborations with partner institutions throughout the world. In this sense Franklin College shares the mission of UGA’s Office of International Education, and FISP is a key element of that mission. Since teaching and research are indissolubly linked, participants in the Franklin International Scholars Program will always be expected to teach as well as to conduct research. Teaching a class will allow international scholars to rehearse their research agendas before an enthusiastic and critical audience of UGA students. As a means of promoting interdisciplinarity, when possible the international scholars will teach split-level graduate/undergraduate classes, or cross-listed courses at either level.

Support for FISP in 2011 has been provided by:
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