

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 MLCS 199 - A1  
IRISH LANGUAGE I (Fall Term)**

Instructor: Barra Ó Scannláin  
Office: 307 Arts Building  
Fax: 780-492-9106  
E-mail: bscanlon@ualberta.ca  
Course Website: see eClass

Time: M W F 9:00-9:50  
Place: HC 2-14  
Office Hours: M W 10:00 – 11:00,  
or by appointment

---

**Course Prerequisite:** No previous knowledge of the Irish language.  
It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

Fáilte go *Irish I!* This course aims to enable students to develop elementary proficiency in *Gaeilge* (Irish language), with a focus on oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. Topics covered will be as relevant as possible to you as students, for example *Daily routine, Family, Student life, Hobbies, Background and origin*, etc. The objective of the course is to develop basic proficiency in Irish, therefore students will be encouraged to develop their communicative abilities both inside and outside the classroom (extra-curricular activities such as Irish Language Week, etc.).

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases
- introduce themselves and others and ask and answer questions about personal details
- interact with others about familiar topics in a simple way

■ understand simple oral and written texts

Note that the course will be based on the A1 level of language proficiency in accordance with the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (Council of Europe, 2001) and *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge* – an accredited institution that provides Irish language testing and qualifications ([www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie)).

While occasional references will be made to *an cultúr Gaelach* (Irish/gaelic culture) and sociolinguistics to provide a cultural context, *Irish I* will predominantly focus on the Irish language. The course *Irish Culture*, which will be taught in the Winter term, will deal with cultural topics in more detail.

**Course Format:** Students will learn in an interactive, communication-driven environment, engaging in group work, individual study, and occasionally using technology and social media to engage with other Irish-language learners around the world.

### **Texts:**

**There are no required texts for this course.**

**Recommended dictionaries (all free and available online):**

*Dictionary and Language Library* <https://www.teanglann.ie/en/> - an online collection of the three most authoritative dictionaries in the Irish language. Also available as an app.

*New English-Irish Dictionary* <https://www.focloir.ie/en/> - a new dictionary project constantly being updated with more modern terms, like *bréagnuacht* (fake news). Also available as an app.

**NB: Both of the above provide sound files of native speakers pronouncing words in the three main dialects of Irish, and grammatical information.**

*Téarma.ie* <http://www.tearma.ie/Home.aspx> - a terminology database, for more specific areas of language like medical terminology and other “jargon”.

*Pota Focal* <http://www.potafocal.com/> - an independent Irish language dictionary with glossaries and sample sentences drawn from various online sources.

**Other useful sources:**

*Abair.ie* <http://www.abair.tcd.ie/?lang=eng/> - a text-to-speech synthesis system for the Irish language, with two of the three major dialects (Ulster/Gaith Dobhair and Connaught/Conamara) currently represented. NB important to check your spelling to ensure best results!

*Frása an Lae* <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL899AB1D03F65EF58> – a YouTube playlist of short phrases in Irish, compiled by Gaelchultúr Teo., an Irish language educational company.

### **Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 4, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019  
Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019  
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019  
Final Exam Date: December 11, 2019, 2:00pm

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:  
<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Attendance & Participation	15%
Homework	10%
Quizzes	10% (4 x 2.5%)
Midterm exam (written)	20% October 16, 2019
Midterm exam (oral)	10% October 21, 2019
Final exam (written)	25% December 11, 2019
Final exam (oral)	10% December 6, 2019

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Attendance & Participation:** Attendance will be recorded at every class. You are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to catch up on missed material, notes, etc., by contacting other students or the instructor. In case of potentially excusable absences please notify your instructor by e-mail with as much notice as possible.

**Participation:** In-class participation is crucial for your language-learning progress. This includes individual preparation and attention, and active participation in the class as an individual and in groupwork situations. Participation will be assessed several times during the semester.

**Homework:** Your instructor will assign homework regularly. You are responsible for satisfactory and timely completion of homework assigned by the instructor. Homework also includes daily preparation for class, and preparation for quizzes; you cannot learn and make good use of class time without daily preparation.

**Quizzes:** There will be 4 quizzes throughout the semester, each worth 2.5% of your final grade. These benchmark quizzes are designed to monitor your progress and assess a variety of skills, including reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, and writing.

**Midterm exam (written):** This exam will assess some or all of the skills and components practiced during the course: vocabulary, listening and reading comprehension, writing, grammar. No dictionary or other material or electronic devices will be permitted during the exam. Further details regarding content and format will be discussed in class. The tentative date for the exam is Wednesday October 16, 2019.

**Oral exams (Midterm and Final):** Students will be required to participate in two oral exams designed to assess students' communicative competence in the language. The oral exams will be in the format of a short conversation encompassing the topics covered to that point in the semester. The instructor will agree with students on a date and time. Students are responsible for showing up prepared at agreed date and time. The tentative date for the midterm oral exam is the week of October 21 2019, and for the final December 6, 2019.

**Final exam (written):** The final exam will assess some or all of the skills and components practiced during the course: vocabulary, listening and reading comprehension, writing, grammar, and culture. No dictionary or other material or electronic devices will be permitted during the exam. Further details regarding content and format will be discussed in class. The final exam is scheduled for December 11, at 2.00pm.

### **Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

#### ***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and

creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, participation is an essential component; therefore, students are expected to attend class daily, be prepared to interact *as Gaeilge* in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and take exams on the scheduled date.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>

<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>
-----------------	----------	-----	-------------

**Copyright:** Barra Ó Scannláin, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2019