

<b>MODULE CODE:</b>	<b>CYCS7015</b>						
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Y Mabinogi</b>						
<b>DATED:</b>	<b>02/07/2015</b>						
<b>MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Prof. Jane Cartwright</b>						
<b>CREDITS:</b>	<b>20</b>						
<b>LEVEL:</b>	<b>7</b>						
<b>TEACHING METHODS:</b>	<table> <tr> <td><b>Distance learning</b></td> <td><b>100%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>directed learning</b></td> <td><b>90%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>e-mail, Skype, phone and/or face-to-face tutorials</b></td> <td><b>10%</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Distance learning</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>directed learning</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>e-mail, Skype, phone and/or face-to-face tutorials</b>	<b>10%</b>
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<b>JACS CODE:</b>	<b>Q561</b>						

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### AIM(S)

- To provide students with a systematic understanding of the content, context, cultural and historical importance of the *Four Branches of the Mabinogi*.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the module students should be able to:

- demonstrate that they have an advanced knowledge of the content, style and structure of the *Four Branches of the Mabinogi*;
- evaluate critically past and current research on the Mabinogi, develop their own critiques and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses;
- analyse a range of themes relating to this collection of medieval tales (e.g. dating, authorship, characterisation, oral performance);
- demonstrate a thorough understanding of the cultural and historical importance of the tales and place them in their wider literary and historical context.

### CONTENT

This module will introduce students to medieval Welsh prose via a detailed study of four native Welsh prose tales, *Pedeir Keinc y Mabinogi* (the *Four Branches of the Mabinogi*) in translation. Having placed the legends within the wider context of the eleven Welsh tales, known collectively as the Mabinogi(on), and having surveyed the kind of prose texts available in Welsh in the Middle Ages, students will be introduced to the narrative content of the tales and consider issues relating to dating, manuscript transmission, authorship, literary motifs, style and structure. To what extent is it possible to use linguistic and historical evidence to date the tales and is there any evidence to suggest that they belong to a pre-Christian past? What theories have been proposed regarding authorship of the *Four Branches* and to what extent do they betray Celtic and/or Norman influence? What is the relationship between the different branches and do they contain any evidence of lost traditions? Students will consider their relationship to early Welsh poetry and medieval triads, as well as their Irish connections. The module will also focus on a number of research questions relating to stylistic features and the importance of oral transmission and performance. Students will be expected to become familiar with previous and current research on the Mabinogi and critically evaluate this material, exercising initiative and

independent learning ability as they progress through the distance-learning module. Various English translations of the Mabinogi, as well as modern adaptations, will be discussed and consideration will be given to the Mabinogi's cultural legacy.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Analytical commentary on a section of text selected by the module tutor from the Mabinogi - approximately 1,000 words (20%)

One essay of approximately 4,000 words (80%)

### *Example assignments:*

Analyse the following passage from the Mabinogi. In your commentary you could consider the particular significance of this passage, its context within the tale, style, characterisation, themes and literary motifs etc.

Critically evaluate the main hypotheses put forward concerning the authorship of *Pedeir Keinc y Mabinogi*. Do you agree that Gwennllïan ferch Gruffudd ap Cynan 'wrote' the *Four Branches*?