

Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English
ENGL 5207F/4105A: Old English

**Prerequisite: fourth-year standing in Honours English
or permission of the Department.**
Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3102.

Wednesday/Friday 11:35am–12:55pm
DT 1816 (Please confirm location on Carleton Central.)
Instructor: Dr. Robin Norris
Email: Robin_Norris@carleton.ca
Office: 1806 Dunton Tower
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 4195
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00–2:30 and by appointment

Course description

Students in this course will learn how to read Old English, which was spoken and written in Anglo-Saxon England during the so-called dark ages. After 1000 years of linguistic change, this may feel like a foreign language course, but we will actually be reading the earliest form of English. We will approach the language through literary texts in prose and verse from a variety of genres, including history, dream visions, elegies, and riddles. Medieval studies is an inherently interdisciplinary enterprise, so throughout the course, students will also be introduced to topics such as the making of manuscripts and Anglo-Saxon art and archaeology. By the end of the term, students will be able to translate a passage from *Beowulf*, the most famous Old English text, and to compare their work to published versions of the poem, including the translation by Seamus Heaney, whose poetry reminds us of the relevance of ancient literature to the twenty-first century.

Course objectives

- Reading knowledge of Old English
- Introduction to the extant Old English corpus
- Mastery of fundamental Old English grammar and vocabulary
- Understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of Anglo-Saxon literature
- Introduction to Anglo-Saxon material culture, including archaeology and manuscripts

Required texts

Free download at punctumbooks.com:

Thomas Meyer, *Beowulf: A Translation* (Punctum, 2012).

Available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, octopusbooks.org, (613)233-2589:

Peter Baker, *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd ed. (Blackwell 2012).

Seamus Heaney, *Beowulf: A New Translation*, reprint ed. (Norton 2001).

R. M. Liuzza, *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation*, 2nd ed. (Broadview 2012).

Note: Students may also be required to read, photocopy, and/or print websites and handouts available online or in hard copy. For students who would like an Old English dictionary, for beginners I recommend: J. R. Clark Hall, *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, 4th ed. (MART 1984).

Evaluation

Quizzes/homework	25%
Preparation/participation	25%
Translation exam	25%
Essay and presentation	25%

Please note:

All assignments must be written in standard academic English using MLA format. The essay assignment will be discussed in class at least one week prior to the deadline. Essays will be available for return as soon as possible (e.g., approximately two weeks after all students' assignments have been submitted). Students are responsible for making arrangements to pick up their essays.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by xxx for the Fall term and xxx for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Attendance and participation policy

You must complete all reading and translation assignments before coming to class and bring all assigned reading and homework materials to each class. Faithful attendance, advance preparation, and informed participation will be necessary to pass the class.

Backup copies

I reserve the right to request a backup electronic and/or hard copy of all assignments; you are responsible for keeping these backups and submitting them immediately upon request.

Campus services

- Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service
4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-520-6632, carleton.ca/wts
- Learning Commons
4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-530-2600 x1125, library.carleton.ca/learning_commons
- Paul Menton Centre
500 University Centre, 613-520-6608, carleton.ca/pmc
- Student Academic Success Centre
302 Tory, 613-520-7850, carleton.ca/sasc

Deferred final exams

Deferred final exams must be applied for at the registrar's office and are available only if the student is in good standing in the course. In order to qualify for a deferred final exam for this course, all prior assignments must have been submitted on or before their respective deadlines, and the student may not have more than two unexcused absences.

Final grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Late assignments

A grade of zero will be recorded for all late or missing assignments. *No late essays will be accepted. No late homework assignments, exercises, or quizzes will be accepted except in cases when students present documentation of accommodation, illness, bereavement, etc., and take responsibility for making appropriate arrangements to make up the missing work. Late assignments may receive a grade but no written feedback.

Missed appointments

The penalty for a missed appointment is a zero quiz grade. I also reserve the right to refuse future appointments to students who miss appointments scheduled with me.

Rewrite policy

Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to rewrite an essay or exam, or to resubmit an assignment in this course.

Statement on plagiarism

Before completing any assignment, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand what academic integrity means, what plagiarism is, how to complete your work honestly, and how to cite sources properly. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise instructed. No piece of work written for another course, however modified, may be submitted for credit in this one.

Academic integrity violations will not be tolerated. All suspected cases will be reported to the dean's office at once and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. All existing means of plagiarism detection will be utilized, including internet search engines and services such as turnitin.com.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of F for the course.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 6	First day of class – not to be missed!
Sept. 11–13	Chapter 1: historical context. Chapter 2: pronunciation. Chapter 3: grammar review. Chapter 16: orthography.
Sept. 18–20	Chapter 4: case. Chapter 5: pronouns. Translate Minitext C and The Fall of Adam and Eve.
Sept. 25–27	Chapter 6: nouns. Translate Minitext G and The Life of St. Æthelthryth.
Oct. 2–4	Chapter 7: verbs. Translate Bede’s Story of Cædmon (1–23).
Oct. 9	Chapters 8, 9, and 10: adjectives and other parts of speech. Chapters 11 and 12: concord and syntax. Translate Minitext E and The Battle of Maldon.
No class 10/11	
Oct. 16–18	Chapters 13, 14, and 15: poetics. Translate Minitexts I, J, L, and riddles.
Oct. 23–25	Translate The Dream of the Rood.
FALL BREAK	No class October 31 and November 2.
Nov. 6–8	Translate The Wanderer, Wulf and Eadwacer, and The Wife’s Lament.
Nov. 13–15	Translate Judith.
Nov. 20–22	Practice exam. Translation exam.
Nov. 27–29	<i>Beowulf</i> discussion begins. You must read the Liuzza translation by 11/27. <i>Beowulf</i> presentations begin.
Dec. 4–6	<i>Beowulf</i> presentations continue.
MONDAY DECEMBER 9 4:00 PM	Deadline to submit hard copy of essay to dropbox in English Department, 1812 Dunton Tower. Late essays automatically receive a grade of zero. In class on 12/6 is your last chance to request an extension.