

Carleton University
Winter 2017
Department of English
ENGL 4105/5207: Introduction to Old English

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

Time: Wednesday 11:35–2:25
Location: Paterson 218
Instructor: Prof. Robin Norris
Email: robin.norris@carleton.ca
Office: 1813 Dunton Tower
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 4195
Office Hours: by appointment

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE (DECEMBER 2016)

Course description

The primary purpose of this course is to learn to read Old English, the oldest form of the English language. After 1000 years of language change, the language of the Anglo-Saxons can seem quite foreign. At the same time, 76% of the most common Old English words are still in use today, and 83% of our most common words are from Old English.

In this new version of the Introduction to Old English course, you will learn to read Old English through five narrative prose texts related to the genres of romance and hagiography (lives of saints): Apollonius of Tyre, a story later used by Shakespeare; the life of Euphrosyne, a transvestite saint; the life of Saint Eustace, featuring the first happy heterosexual kiss in English literature; the life of Mary of Egypt, a reformed prostitute; the passion of the Seven Sleepers, whose 400 year nap becomes a medieval time travel story. In the second half of the course, each student will take responsibility for teaching one verse text about a saint: for example, the apostle Andreas, who rescues Matthew from cannibal Mermedonians, or the hermit Guthlac or the virgin Juliana, both of whom fight against demons.

Reading knowledge of Old English is the primary objective of the course, but we will accomplish several additional **course objectives** along the way:

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

Texts

Texts will be ordered through Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, 613-233-2589, octopusbooks.ca.

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

Recommended: J. R. Clark Hall, *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, 4th ed. (MART, 1984).

Students will also be required to read, photocopy, and/or print websites and handouts available online or in hard copy.

Evaluation*

Quizzes and exercises (homework, in class, or completed on CULearn) 10%

Grammar teaching exercise (including pronunciation and participation in others' lessons) 15%

Verse teaching exercise (including pronunciation and participation in others' classes) 15%

Translation exam (in class on March 1) 30%

Final take-home exam (due to department drop box by 4:30 PM on April 25) 30%

**see also Attendance, collegiality, and participation policy below*

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 11	Welcome and introductions. Historical contexts. Pronunciation. PDE grammar review, personal pronouns, case.	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 16. Discuss prose texts in translation.
	<i>During weeks 2–6, students will take turns leading the class in lessons on various aspects of OE grammar.</i>	
Jan. 18	Grammatical gender, nouns, the demonstrative pronoun.	Chapters 4, 5, 6. Apollonius of Tyre
Jan. 25	Weak and anomalous verbs.	Chapter 7. Eustace
Feb. 1	Strong and preterite-present verbs.	Chapter 7. Euphrosyne
Feb. 8	Adjectives: weak and strong.	Chapter 8. Mary of Egypt
Feb. 15	Adverbs. Numerals. Loose ends.	Chapters 9, 10. Seven Sleepers
Mar. 1	Translation exam.	
Mar. 8	Word order, concord, meter, poetic diction.	Chapters 11–15.
Mar. 15	<i>During weeks 9–12, students will take turns leading the class through their verse translation assignments. Meanwhile, students will translate all assigned texts and participate in one another's classes. Texts may include Andreas, Guthlac A and B, and/or Juliana.</i>	
Mar. 22		
Mar. 29		
April 5		

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance, collegiality, and participation

This course is an advanced seminar, so I expect professional and courteous behaviour from all students and demand a high level of investment in the course.

There should be no undocumented absences from class. In other words, you must email me to let me know that you are missing class, you are advised to state whether you believe the absence is excusable, and you should explain what *you* will do to make up the three hours of instruction that you missed. Students enrolled in ENGL 5207 will complete a longer final exam. Otherwise, no distinction will be made between undergraduate and graduate students, and I expect all students to foster a spirit of collaboration and community.

Passing this class requires advance preparation and informed participation. You must complete all reading and translation assignments before coming to class and bring all assigned reading and homework materials to each class. When you are in class, I expect you to be an active participant. The evaluation rubric above is predicated upon these fundamental expectations. Therefore, I reserve the right to deduct a full letter grade from the final course mark for *each* of the following: undocumented absences, behaviour detrimental to a spirit of collaboration and community, failure to come to class prepared, failure to actively participate in class.

Cancellations

You are responsible for checking your Carleton email once at least daily so that you will have as much warning as possible in case of a necessary cancellation (e.g., due to illness).

Late assignments

A grade of zero will be recorded for all late or missing assignments. No late homework assignments, exercises, or quizzes will be accepted except in cases where students present documentation of accommodation, illness, bereavement, etc., *and* take responsibility for making appropriate arrangements to make up the missing work. No late exams will be accepted.

Rewrite policy

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

Take-home exam

Students are welcome to work collaboratively on the final exam, and to utilize all available resources. However, each student must write and submit her own answers. All sources consulted must be cited using MLA format. You must read and understand the statement on plagiarism below before beginning work on the take-home exam.

FASS POLICIES

Academic accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 one unexcused absence.

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.

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.