

English 429/529
Winter 2015
MWF 1:00-1:50, 102 Deady
Office hours: M 12-1 and 2-3; F 12-1

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OLD ENGLISH II SYLLABUS

In this class we'll read and think about a number of Old English works of literature relating to wisdom, violence, and elves, while practicing and honing our grammatical skills. By the end of the term you should be able to read Old English fairly fluently, as well as to discuss key texts with knowledge and attention to detail.

Learning Outcomes include the following:

1. You will have practice in reading literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions.
2. You will have practice in drawing on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts.
3. You will perform critical, formal analyses of literary and other cultural texts.
4. You will have practice in writing focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose.
5. You will have practice in employing logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments.
6. You will be able to converse with native Old English speakers in both Old English and 11th-century sign language if sucked back through a time portal.

Required text: Richard Marsden, *The Cambridge Old English Reader*

Grading:

All students: grammar quiz: 10%
 paper: 30%
 each exam: 20%

Required but not graded:

 memorization of a passage of Old English poetry
 preparation and participation

There will also be opportunity to earn extra credit.

Everyone should come to class prepared and ready to translate!

 In the unthinkable event of plagiarism, you will fail the course. Please be careful not to copy any work written by anyone else without full acknowledgement. On plagiarism see library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html. Hwæt!

Schedule:

January

Week 1

- M 5 Overview and grammar review.
W 7 Grammar review continued. Bring the *Cambridge Old English Reader* to class.
F 9 The Age of the Virgin (*Reader*, section 2c): be prepared to translate this in class.

Week 2

- M 12 **Grammar quiz.** The *Monasteriales Indicia* (Anglo-Saxon sign language): be prepared to translate the first 6 items
W 14 The *Monasteriales Indicia* continued
F 16 *The Battle of Brunanburh* (*Reader*, section 10)

Week 3

- M 19 No class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
W 21 *Battle of Brunanburh* continued
F 23 *Battle of Brunanburh* continued

Week 4

- M 26 **First exam**
W 28 in-class riddles (on handout; no need to translate ahead)
F 30 *The Fight at Finnsburh* (*Reader*, section 32)

Week 5

February

- M 2 *The Fight at Finnsburh* continued
W 4 *The Will of Ælfgifu* (*Reader*, section 11)
F 6 *Wulf and Eadwacer* (*Reader*, section 39)

Week 6

- M 9 *The Wife's Lament* (*Reader*, section 40)
W 11 *The Wife's Lament* continued.
F 13 Charm "Against a Sudden Stitch" (on handout)

Week 7

- M 16 *Deor* (*Reader*, section 36)
W 18 *Deor* cont.
F 20 *Deor* cont.

Week 8

- M 23 **Second exam**
W 25 *The Ruin* (*Reader*, section 37)
F 27 *The Ruin* continued. **Undergraduate paper due.**

Week 9

March

M 2 *The Trees of the Sun and the Moon (Reader, section 28)*
W 4 The Franks Casket (in class; no need to prepare ahead)
F 6 The Franks Casket, continued

Week 10

M 9 Final summary and review
W 11 No class. Form study groups and study!
F 13 **Third exam**

There will be *no final exam* (during exam week) in this class.
Graduate seminar paper due: Tuesday, March 18, 5 pm, by e-mail to
mjbayles@uoregon.edu.