

ENG 301
The Old English Period
(LA)

Professor(s): Sarah M. Anderson

Description/Objective:

This course introduces the chief features of Old English, the language of the Anglo-Saxons in the British Isles from about 450-1100 CE, and places OE within the broader development of English. By the end of the first week, we will start reading riddles, sermons, biography, charms, letters, law, and elegiac verse. Although the goal of the course is to enable students to read OE with a dictionary, we will also examine the historical contexts of OE literature and, as time permits, engage with the material setting of these texts in the books that have preserved them.

Sample Reading List:

B. Mitchell and F. C. Richards, eds.

A Guide to Old English {6th ed.}

Clark Hall, J. R. with H. D. Meritt

A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary {4th ed.}

M. Golden and M. Lapidge, eds

The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature

Course Packets

See instructor for complete list.

Reading/Writing Assignments:

Weekly translations; short analytical papers; take-home final exam.

Other Requirements:

Not Open to Freshmen

Requirements/Grading:

Take Home Final Exam 20%

Class/Precept Participation 25%

Paper(s) 30%

Other 25%

Prerequisites and Restrictions:

Knowledge of a foreign language or of linguistics may be helpful, but is not required.

Other Information:

Texts may include selections from: Alfred the Great's translation of Boethius; The Wanderer; Judith; Bede's account of the conversion of Edwin; the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; Alexander's Letter to Aristotle; the 878 Anglo-Danish peace treaty; and selected charms and medicinal recipes.

Schedule:

Cls#: 22064 - S01 2:30 pm-3:50 TTh