

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

Old English Language and Literature **English 3012 (001)** Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Prof. M.J. Toswell

Date/Time: Monday 1:30pm-2:30pm
Wednesday 12:30pm-2:30pm

Location: University College 286

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or Medieval Studies 1022, or both of Medieval Studies 1025A/B and 1026A/B, or the former Medieval Studies 1020E, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course introduces the language and literature of England as they were approximately 1000 years ago. In the Fall Term the language will be taught step by step through a reading of major literary texts in prose and poetry, before beginning consideration of Beowulf. In the second term students will continue to concentrate on Beowulf. Our focus this year will be on critical approaches to the poem, addressing how they illuminate or obscure particular passages or engage with the whole of the text. In the final months of the course we will turn back to three shorter lyrics and a long prose romance, the first of its kind in a European vernacular, and consider the wider context of Anglo-Saxon cultural literacy.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Understand the elements of language and of the importance of understanding language in order to address literary texts;
- Develop a basic understanding of Old English grammar;
- Understand what the issues are in the field of translation studies and some practical understanding of how to translate Old English;
- Recognize that accuracy and attention to detail is important in engaging with texts, especially Old English texts;
- Discuss Old English texts critically;
- Understand the critical heritage of Beowulf and develop an ability to engage with the poem intelligently;
- Be aware of the ideas and structures of surviving Anglo-Saxon texts, including the ability to engage with details of prosodic and stylistic analysis.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Baker, Peter. *Introduction to Old English*. 3rd (Oxford: Blackwell, 2012**)
Liuzza, R.M. *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation*. (Peterborough: Broadview, 2000).
Mitchell, Bruce and Fred C. Robinson, ed. *Beowulf*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998).

Methods of Evaluation

Quizzes, some scheduled and some not	15%
January Test	5%
Final Exam	35%
Short Essays or commentaries online - 4 @ 5%	20%
<i>Beowulf</i> Presentation on a critical approach	5%
<i>Apollonius</i> group project	5%
Sight Translations 3 @ 5%	15%

Neither late assignments nor make-up tests will normally be possible; this is a course of study in which it is vital to keep up to date with the work. My policy is not to give individual extensions.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

9 Sept.	Introduction Quiz online
11 Sept.	History of Anglo-Saxon England Introduction to the Language Websites on Old English
16 Sept.	Baker, chapters 1, 2, Appendix C Old English Pronunciation
18 Sept.	Baker, chapters 3, 4 Introductory sentences <i>Adam and Eve</i>
23 Sept.	"Lord's Prayer" Parts of Speech

25 Sept.	Baker, chapter 5 Minitext A Quiz online Review of basic grammar, case
30 Sept.	Baker, chapter 6, Minitext B
2 Oct.	Baker, chapter 6, 8, Minitext D Baker, Text 7, <i>Ohthere</i> , p. 204
7 Oct.	Baker, chapter 7, Verbs
9 Oct.	Minitext C, p. 87 Review and revise verbs
14 Oct.	Thanksgiving, no class
16 Oct.	Baker, chapters 9 and 10
21 Oct.	Grammar Review Minitext E p. 97, Minitext F, p. 103
23 Oct.	Text 7, <i>Ohthere</i> , p. 205 Sight Translation
28 Oct.	Baker, chapter 11, Minitext G p. 113
30 Oct.	Text 3 Cynewulf and Cyneheard
4 Nov.	Baker, chapter 12, Minitext H p. 131
6 Nov.	Text 4 Elfhæth Quiz online
11 Nov.	Text 5 Wulfstan, <i>Sermo Lupi</i> 1-12
13 Nov.	Baker, chapters 13, 14, 15 Introduction to Poetry
18 Nov.	Text 8, Bede on Caedmon Short Essay/Commentary online
20 Nov.	Text 10 Selection of Riddles
25 Nov.	Mitchell & Robinson, <i>Beowulf</i> Introduction to <i>Beowulf</i>
27 Nov.	Overview of the poem Translation of R.M. Liuzza Quiz online
2 Dec.	<i>Beowulf</i> 1-53

4 Dec.	<i>Beowulf</i> 54-188
Christmas Break	
6 Jan.	Sight Translation
8 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 189-319
13 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 320-370
15 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 371-498
20 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 499-558 Short Essay/Commentary
22 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 559-702
27 Jan.	<i>Beowulf</i> 703-749 Quiz online
29 Jan.	Presentations on <i>Beowulf</i> criticism
31 Jan. 3 Feb.	Presentations on <i>Beowulf</i> criticism Presentations on <i>Beowulf</i> criticism
5 Feb.	Presentations on <i>Beowulf</i> criticism <i>Beowulf</i> 750-836
10 Feb.	<i>Beowulf</i> 837-924 Short essay/commentary
12 Feb.	<i>Beowulf</i> 1050-1159a Quiz online
17-21 Feb.	Break Week
24 Feb.	Sight Translation
26 Feb.	<i>Beowulf</i> 1314-1424
3 Mar.	<i>Beowulf</i> 1492-1570 Quiz online
5 Mar.	<i>Beowulf</i> 2247-77, 2425-2489, 2510-2541
10 Mar.	<i>Beowulf</i> 2752-2820
12 Mar.	<i>Beowulf</i> 3110-3182
17 Mar.	Baker, Text 11 <i>The Battle of Maldon</i> , selections

19 Mar.	Baker, Text 12 <i>The Wanderer</i>
24 Mar.	Baker, Text 13 <i>The Dream of the Road</i> 11. 1-89
26 Mar.	Baker, Text 15 <i>Waldere</i> , Text 16 <i>Wulf and Eadwacer</i> , Text 17 <i>Wife's Lament</i> Quiz online
31 Mar.	<i>Apollonius</i> presentations
2 Apr.	<i>Apollonius</i> presentations
7 Apr.	<i>Apollonius</i> presentations
9 April	Review

Assignments:

Quizzes: These quizzes will be posted to Sakai during the 24 hours indicated on the course outline. You must do the quizzes alone. Generally, each quiz will be out of 10, and in most cases the system will mark your quiz. Best 5 of 6 @ 1% = 5%

Short Essays: Submitted on Sakai, these will be 500-word engagements with one of the texts treated in the previous three weeks. You may consider style, the material or social culture of the text, its theme or ideas, or an idea cleared with me. 4 @ 5% = 20%

January Test: This test will include passages for translation (chosen from the lyrics and prose passages studied to date), a short-answer question, and one or two essay questions. There will be no grammar questions per se on the January test. 5%

Final Examination: More details will be available during the course, but the final examination for English 3012 typically includes several passages from *Beowulf* for translation, a sight translation, some short-answer questions, and two essays (one specifically on *Beowulf*, the other a more general question that will allow you to apply knowledge gained throughout the course). The passages from *Beowulf* are chosen from among those for which the student is responsible. Please bear in mind that you will not be able to use your textbooks and notes during the final examination

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.