

ENGL 4200/ ENGL 5200: Introduction to Old English

TTH-1:00-2:15, Gunderson Hall 000

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Gold-filigree Horse Head from the Staffordshire Hoard (7th - 8th century)

Course Description

Old English is the version of English spoken and written prior to the Norman Invasion in 1066. It was the first written “language of the people” to be used extensively for law, literature, and history in Britain. At a time when “literacy” meant being able to read in Latin, the Anglo-Saxons began writing in their own vernacular language, saving for us their rich literature and giving us a legacy for our own language. Around 70% of the words we use in our everyday conversations are derived from Old English: bed, awaken, eat, bread, work, husband, wife, friend, mother, kiss, fight, evening—just to name a few. These similarities between Old and Modern English will enable us to do short reading assignments from the very beginning of class. However, English has also changed substantially in the past thousand years, so we will systematically learn the paradigms and core vocabulary for Old English. The final weeks of the course will be spent reading prose excerpts from Bede and Ælfric, and reading poetry such as the Exeter Book riddles and *The Wanderer*. [This course is a prerequisite for taking ENGL 4300/5300 *Beowulf*.]

Required Book

Fulk, R. D. *An Introductory Grammar of Old English*. Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies. Tempe: ACMRS, 2014. [Paperback ISBN: 978-0866985147, \$42]

Assignments and Grading Distribution

The key to successfully learning Old English is to stay current on the daily work. The course will have daily assignments that we will go over in class. These assignments will be a mix of homework, memorization, and translation. Preparation for each day's assignment will take around 1-3 hours. Much of your participation and homework score will be determined by your preparation for class and attendance. We will have three substantial quizzes over particular grammar topics. The final exam, though it will stress the grammar topics covered in the second half of the semester, will necessarily be cumulative.

Participation and Homework	20%
Quizzes:	
Nouns and Pronouns	10%
Weak Verbs, Adjectives, Demonstratives	10%
Strong Verbs and Review	10%
Exams:	
Mid Term	25%
Final	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Ground Rules for This Class

- **Come see me!** I am always happy to meet and talk with students. Please feel free to drop in during my office hours, or to ask for a meeting at other times (contact me via email). You can email me at any time. I'll get back to you as soon as I can, although it might not always be immediately.
- **No electronics.** The most current research shows that you retain more information if you read from hardcopy and take notes by hand. Hence, you will need to purchase the textbook in hardcopy and bring a paper notebook to class to take notes. (If you need an accommodation, please read "Disability Services and Academic Accommodations" below.)
- **Absences:** Attendance is critically important in learning a language. Three absences will go unremarked, but each additional unexcused absence will result in a 10% reduction of the final course grade. If you will be absent, send me an email prior to class and let me know. You are responsible for asking a classmate for the notes when you miss class and for keeping up with the assignments.
- **Late to class:** If you arrive after I have taken roll, you can "buy back" that absence by emailing me a one-page written summary of the class before the end of the day. (That lets me know you were there taking good notes, and also makes you try a little harder to be on time.)

[University-specific statements on academic integrity, disability accommodation, Title IX, etc. will be placed here.]

Reading and Homework Sequence

Week	Day	Reading	Assignments / Translations
1	T	In-class: Introduction	
	Th	In-class: History of the Anglo-Saxons and Introduction to IPA	Review IPA Handout, Listen to online IPA sounds at: http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-soundsipa.htm
2	T	Ch. I: Phonology and Orthography	Ex. 13, 14, 24 Come prepared to read IPA transcription on pg 20
	Th	Ch. II: Grammatical Gender, Cases, Masculine a-Stems (I.25–28) ~~Reading from: <i>Æthelwold's Reforms</i>	Ex. 31; Reading on pg 19 Memorize Masc. a-Stem paradigm. Come prepared to read the Old English on pg 19
3	T	Ch. III: Neuter a-Stems, Demonstratives, Prepositions, Pronouns ~~Reading from: Luke	Ex. 34; Reading on pg 24 Memorize Neut. a-Stem paradigm; 1 st and 2 nd Person Pronouns
	Th	Ch. IV: Feminine o-Stems, Reflexive Pronouns, Subjunctive ~~Reading from: Genesis	Ex 40; Reading on pg 30 Memorize Fem. o-Stem paradigm & 3 rd Person and Reflexive Pronouns
4	T	Ch. V: Weak Nouns, Verbal Tense, Forms of <i>bēon</i> ~~Reading from: Genesis	“Noun Paradigms and Pronouns Quiz” Ex. 47; Reading on pg. 33-34 (Use a Modern English translation to assist your translation) Memorize Weak Noun (n-Stem) & <i>bēon</i> paradigms
	Th	Ch. VI: Strong and Weak Adjectives, Infinitives ~~Reading from: Genesis	Ex. 57; Reading on pg 38 On handout: Memorize Strong Declension of Adjectives, <i>ja</i> and <i>jō</i> -Stem, & Weak Inflection (for Definite Nouns) paradigms
5	T	Ch. VII: Numerals, Demonstrative <i>pēs</i> (VII.59-60; 66) ~~Reading from: Genesis	Ex. 61; Reading on pg 43 Memorize <i>pēs</i> paradigm. Be able to recognize cardinal numbers
	Th	Ch. VIII <i>wa</i> -, <i>wō</i> , <i>ja</i> , and <i>jō</i> -Stem Nouns (VII.69-70) ~~Reading from: Genesis	“Weak Verbs, Adjectives, and Demonstratives Quiz” Reading on pg 46
6	T	Ch. IX: <i>hwa</i> , Verb-second Syntax (77-78) Ch. X: Present Inflection- Strong Verbs, Consonant-Stem Nouns, Conjunctive Adverbs ~~Readings for remaining chapters are from <i>Apollonius</i>	Ex. 81, [Read handout of ModEng translation of pg 51 before beginning reading for the day], Reading on pg 55 Memorize: Present Inflection (and variations) paradigms Be able to recognize consonant-stem noun cases
	Th	Study Mid-term Exam Study Sheet	Mid-term Exam
7	T	Ch. XI: Strong Verbs (1 st and 2 nd), Absolute Constructions	Be familiar with vowel alternations in the principle parts of 1 st and 2 nd class verbs Memorize conjugation paradigm Ex. 89; Reading on pg. 59-60

	Th	Ch. XII: Strong Verbs (3 rd), Verb Prefixes	Be familiar with vowel alternations in 3 rd class of verbs Be familiar with verbal prefixes Ex. 93; Reading on pg. 64
8	T	Ch. XIII: Strong Verbs (4 th and 5 th), <i>i</i> - and <i>u</i> -Stem Nouns	Be familiar with vowel alternations in 4 th and 5 th class of verbs Memorize <i>i</i> - and <i>u</i> -stem noun paradigms Ex. 97 and Reading on pg. 69-70
	Th	Ch. IV: Strong Verbs (6 th and 7 th), Contractions, Negative Concord	Be familiar with vowel alternation in 6 th and 7 th class of verbs Reading on pg. 74
9	T	Ch. XV: Weak Verbs (1 st) (XV.107, 109)	“Strong Verbs and Noun Review Quiz” Memorize the 1 st class weak verb conjugation paradigm Ex. 110; Reading on pg. 79-80
	Th	Ch. XVI: Irregular Weak Verbs (1 st), Spelling Variations XVI.117-118	Be familiar with the vowel shifts in XVI.112 and 113 Reading on pg. 83-84
10	T	Ch. XVII: Weak Verbs (2 nd and 3 rd)	Memorize 2 nd class of weak verbs conjugation paradigm Be familiar with the four 3 rd class weak verbs Reading on pg. 87-88
	Th	Ch. XVIII: Preterite-Present Verbs (XVIII.123, 126)	Be familiar with the twelve preterite-present verbs Reading on pg. 91-92
11	T	Ch. XIX: Additional Strong Verbs, Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs	Ex. 130 Reading on pg 96-97
	Th	Ch. XX and XXI: Irregular Verb Spelling, Apocope and Syncope (XXI.137)	View the conjugation paradigms of these unusual verbs Readings on pg. 101-102; 105
12	T	1.B: The Story of Cædmon	Read lines 74-137 (pg. 141-143)
	Th		Read lines 138-188 (pg. 143-144)
13	T	4: Ælfric on the Three Estates Appendix C: Old English Poetic Diction and Form	Read lines 1-51 (pg. 153-155) Pg. 132-136
	Th	14: Exeter Book Riddles Riddle 6, 25, 27	Pg. 202-203; 207; 208
14	T	Riddles 35, 44, 47, 51	Pg 210-211; 212-213
	Th	16: The Wanderer	Read lines 1-57 (pg 219-220)
15	T		Read lines 58-115 (pg 220-222)
	Th	Review for Final Exam	Study Final Exam Review Handout
Finals	TBA	Study Final Exam Study Sheet	Final Exam