

M.J. Toswell

## OLD ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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 the material culture of Anglo-Saxon England, and how understanding the physical context in which this material was produced aids our understanding of Old English texts. We will focus particularly on the notion of treasure, including the hoard and the dragon. In the final months of the course we will turn back to some shorter lyrics to consider the wider context of Anglo-Saxon material culture and its effects on literacy.

**Required Texts:**

Baker, Peter. *Introduction to Old English*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed (Oxford: Blackwell, 2012).

Higham, Nicholas J. And Martin J. Ryan, *The Anglo-Saxon World* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2013).

Liuzza, R.M.. *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation*. (Peterborough: Broadview, 1999).

Mitchell, Bruce and Fred C. Robinson, ed. *Beowulf*. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998).

**Course Organisation:**

In September and October the class will study the language and culture of Eng

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