

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 some texts in prose and poetry, before beginning consideration of Beowulf. In the second term students will continue to concentrate on Beowulf. Our focus for the year will be the context and historiography of thinking about Old English, with some examples of modern scholarship and with some consideration of how our thinking about Old English and early medieval England has changed in the two hundred years since scholars began considering these materials.

Required Texts:

Baker, Peter. Introduction to Old English. 3rd ed (Oxford: Blackwell, 2012). Also available online at <http://www.oldenglishaerobics.net/>

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

A printed text-based translation of Beowulf of your choice.

Dating Beowulf: Studies in Intimacy. Ed. Daniel C. Remein & Erica Weaver. (Manchester UP, 2020).

Beowulf and Other Stories: A New Introduction to Old English, Old Icelandic and Anglo-Norman Literatures. Ed. Richard North & Joe Allard. (Pearson/Longman, 2007).

Course Organisation:

In September and October the class will study the language and culture of England in the years 700-1100, including some examples of the prose and short poems written at that time. Along the way we will look chronologically at the surroundings, and at the material context within which these texts were produced, in an effort to understand the way the people of early medieval England thought about their world. re produced.

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- ◆ a real understanding of the interlacing mental and emotional structures, as exemplified in the lexicon, which surround Beowulf and other Old English texts
- ◆ an awareness of the ide