

English 319: Old English Language, Literature, and Culture
MWF 1:00-1:50, 203 Palmer
CRN: 15279

Professor Lori Garner
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Course Description

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In this course you will learn to read the very earliest English literature in its original form, poetry and prose from an intriguing medieval culture that has exerted profound influence even in modern times. Old English was the language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons from roughly 450-1100 AD, and the period's stories of heroes, saints, monsters, and exiles have inspired such writers as J.R.R. Tolkien, Ezra Pound, and Seamus Heaney. Since most Modern English speakers must learn Old English as a foreign language, our work will involve intensive study of Old English grammar with the primary goal of translating a wide range of evocative texts.. Course requirements include daily exercises and readings, a series of quizzes and tests (including oral recitation), and a final research project. Prerequisite: Any 200-level literature course or permission from the instructor.

Required Textbooks and Electronic Materials

Please note that these texts were chosen with our specific class goals in mind. Other translations and earlier editions cannot substitute.

Books

- Amodio, Mark. *The Anglo-Saxon Literature Handbook*. Blackwell, 2013.
- Liuzza, Roy, *Beowulf: Second Edition* (very important to have this edition). Broadview. 2012
- McGillivray, Murray. *A Gentle Introduction to Old English*, Broadview Press. 2010
- McGillivray, Murray. *Old English Reader*, Broadview Press. 2011.

Websites

- <http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/engl401/texts/index.htm>
- <http://www.oegrammar.ca/>
- *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (Bosworth and Toller):
<http://beowulf.engl.uky.edu/~kiernan/BT/bosworth.htm>

Course Requirements

Participation and daily work: 20%

- Daily assignments and frequent assessments will provide opportunities to review and apply your language and translation skills on a regular basis. Please note that some work will be completed online prior to class. If you miss class for any reason, please contact me and check the Moodle site for any missed instructions.
- Daily work cannot be made up except in the most extenuating circumstances. In such cases, special arrangements need to be made ahead of time and documentation will likely be requested. Please submit requests to the “special arrangements” box, even if you have discussed issues with me previously.

Exams: 55%

- Four exams (10% for the first exam and 15% for each subsequent exam) will test your skills in translation and pronunciation, your knowledge of the Old English language, and your understanding of Anglo-Saxon culture.
- Any special arrangements for make-up examinations must be made ahead of time and outside of class. Except in the case of serious illness or other documented emergency, make-up examinations will receive a 20% deduction.

Paper: 15%

- The final paper (approximately 2000 words) offers you the opportunity to apply your knowledge of Anglo-Saxon language and culture in a close analysis of one or more Old English poems. All quoted material must be supplemented with your own original translations. Additional information and requirements will follow.
- Late papers will be subject to a 10% penalty. Papers submitted after the day and time of the scheduled final exam may not be accepted.

Final Project: 10%

- The final project (which, ideally, should relate to your final paper) offers a chance to research a specific aspect of Anglo-Saxon culture and share your findings with the class and other interested students. This project will take the form of a poster or other display that succinctly conveys information on your topic. In lieu of a comprehensive final exam, our class will meet during the scheduled exam time for an Old English Open House, where your projects will be displayed and discussed.
- Please note that you must be present at this event and that late projects cannot be accepted for credit.

Additional Notes

Class preparation: Please read all materials carefully and complete all assigned exercises before you come to class. Bring questions about what is difficult or confusing to you. Also come prepared to share your thoughtful insights and responses. It is your responsibility to notify me *before* classtime of any problems completing readings or assignments. While time spent completing readings and assignments will no doubt vary from student to student and from day to day, you should expect to spend several hours preparing for each hour that you are in class. See helpful tips on time management at <http://www.rhodes.edu/counselingcenter/12089.asp>

Honor code: All work must adhere to the honor code: “As a member of the Rhodes community, I pledge I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and that I will report any such violation that I may witness.”

Plagiarism and academic integrity: The Rhodes College Honor Council Constitution defines plagiarism as follows: “Cheating includes plagiarism; specifically, it is the act of using another person’s words or ideas and representing them as one’s original work. This includes, without limitation, using information from any source without proper reference, getting ideas or words from a classmate’s paper, failure to properly punctuate direct quotes, and obtaining a paper from someone else. Ignorance is not an excuse for these violations. It is the student’s responsibility to consult the professor, an Honor Council member, or writing handbooks for procedure for properly acknowledging sources.” Barret Library offers the following advice for avoiding possible plagiarism:

- Acknowledge and cite all sources properly.
- Use quotation marks around words that are not your own.
- Properly introduce and indent longer quotations that are not your own.
- Use footnotes or endnotes to acknowledge another’s words or ideas.
- Do not paraphrase too closely.

Please note also that all written work (including assigned translations) must be original work produced specifically for this course. No paper or portion of a paper—even if revised— may receive credit if it has already received or will receive credit in another class. Please ask me or a Writing Center staff member if you have any doubt about even a small portion of a paper that you have produced.

Attendance: As the official Student Handbook explains, Rhodes College “considers interactive engagement with other students and the professor, in a structured setting, to be one of the essential and central components of the academic program. . . . Absenteeism is not to be taken lightly” (<http://www.rhodes.edu/collegehandbook/10372.asp>). Regular attendance is thus expected and counts as a part of your participation grade. Three tardies will be treated as one absence. In addition to the effect of absences on your participation grade, after three unexcused absences, your overall grade may automatically be reduced by 2 percentage points each day, down to 60%. (In other words, a student will not fail on the basis of attendance alone, but poor attendance could theoretically reduce a grade as low as D-.) For example, if your course average at the end of the semester is an 80% and you have 4 unexcused absences, your course grade will be lowered to 78%. I will take roll or distribute a roll sheet at the beginning of each class. I will have a sign-in sheet for late arrivals at the front of the room. Please note that it is *your* responsibility to sign the sheet if you arrive late in order to avoid recorded absences. Absences and tardies may be excused only if I have been notified ahead of time and outside of class. If you miss class, be sure to check the course website for missed material or assignments. Students whose reasons for absence raise privacy concerns should seek assistance from the Office of Student Affairs: <http://www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1186.asp>.

Electronic Materials: We will be using online resources extensively for readings and assignments. If you do not have a personal computer compatible with Moodle or our other online resources, please make use of the Computer labs in Barret to complete graded work and access required readings. Grades will also be posted to Moodle regularly. If you suspect an error in your reported grade, please notify me within one week of receiving the grade. (Please do not wait until

the end of the semester to challenge grades.) While I will always make allowances for campus-wide outages, please note that individual problems with a personal computer or account will not serve as an excuse for late assignments.

Special Accommodations: If you require any disability-related accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. I am more than happy to help make any necessary arrangements. If you have not already done so, please contact the Office of Disability Services: 901-843-3885. For further information, go to <http://www.rhodes.edu/disabilityservices/default.asp>.

Library Reserve: Occasionally, books that might be especially helpful for your research may be placed on reserve in Barret Library.

Additional Resources: Success in this course and others is likely to be enhanced with careful time management, good study habits, and a general sense of well-being. The Counseling Center offers free and confidential counseling to Rhodes students: <http://www.rhodes.edu/counselingcenter/default.asp>. In addition, this site provides helpful links and information on such issues as test anxiety, procrastination, homesickness, study skills, and stress.

Extenuating Circumstances: If you need to discuss extenuating circumstances, please arrange a time to meet with me or contact me by email. Please avoid using the time immediately before and after class to ask for special arrangements. Information on late penalties can be found under course requirements.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

All readings and assignments must be completed prior to classtime on the dates assigned. For all assigned translations, please keep a word list (in a notebook or as an electronic document) for any vocabulary that you do not already know by memory. You will be expected to bring your word lists to class each day.

day	date	comment
Wednesday	August 27	Introduction to class; <i>Beowulf</i> prologue
Friday	29	<i>Beowulf</i> lines 1-1049 in Liuzza's modern English translation (pp. 55-117); "Reading Old English" (pp. 49-50); <i>Gentle Introduction to Old English (GIOE)</i> , Preface and Introduction (pp. 7-12); Liuzza, introduction "Between Old and Modern English" (pp. 36-44); complete online "quiz" after finishing reading and reading the syllabus (note: you can use your book and the syllabus while you take it)
Monday	September 1	Labor Day Holiday (no class)
Wednesday	3	<i>Beowulf</i> lines 1050-2199 (pp. 117-87); <i>GIOE</i> , ch. 1 (pp. 13-22); complete and bring to class <i>GIOE</i> exercises 1A and 1B
Friday	5	<i>Beowulf</i> lines 2200-3182 (pp. 187-245); complete exercises <i>GIOE</i> 1C and OEgrammar online exercises 1A and 1B.
Monday	8	<i>Beowulf</i> introduction by Roy Liuzza (pp. 11-36); Appendix E (skim, noting general patterns and differences) (pp. 301-320); complete and upload to Moodle your <i>Beowulf</i> Translation exercise. Bring to class both <i>Beowulf</i> (Liuzza) and the <i>OER</i> .
Wednesday	10	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 2 (pp. 23-29); OEgrammar online exercises 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D; translate <i>Abraham and Isaac</i> 1-3 (<i>GIOE</i> 102)
Friday	12	Online exercises 2E, 2E, 2G, and 2H; translate <i>Abraham and Isaac</i> 4-9 (<i>GIOE</i> pp. 104 and 106)
Monday	15	Review
Wednesday	17	EXAM 1
Friday	19	<i>GIOE</i> , ch. 3 (pp. 30-35); OEgrammar online exercises 3A and 3B; translate <i>Abraham and Isaac</i> 10-19 (<i>GIOE</i> 108-114)
Monday	22	<i>GIOE</i> , exercises 3A and 3B; translate the <i>Birth of Jesus</i> 1-11 (<i>GIOE</i> 118-20)
Wednesday	24	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 4 (pp. 36-41); OEgrammar online exercises 4A and 4B; translate <i>Birth of Jesus</i> 12-21 (<i>GIOE</i> pp. 122-24)
Friday	26	<i>GIOE</i> exercises 4A and 4B; translate Reading Passage, p. 39-40 from OE Chronicle; translate <i>The Voyage of Ohthere</i> 1-6 (<i>GIOE</i> , p 130).
Monday	29	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 5 (pp. 42-49); <i>GIOE</i> exercise 5A; OEgrammar online exercises 5A; translate <i>Ohthere</i> 7-14 (pp. 130-30)
Wednesday	October 1	OEgrammar online exercises 5B, 5C; translate <i>Ohthere</i> 15-29 (131)
Friday	3	<i>GIOE</i> exercises 5B, 5C; translate <i>Ohthere</i> 44-51 (<i>GIOE</i> pp. 133); remainder of <i>Ohthere</i> in modern translation

Monday	6	Review for exam; translate <i>Ælfric's Colloquy</i> 1-12 (<i>GIOE</i> p. 155)
Wednesday	8	No class meeting; translate <i>Colloquy</i> 13-34 (<i>GIOE</i> p. 156) and upload to Moodle; <i>ASLH</i> , p. 127-29. Moodle assessment.
Friday	10	No class meeting; translate <i>Colloquy</i> 35-58 (<i>GIOE</i> p. 157) and upload to Moodle; read remainder of <i>Colloquy</i> in translation. Moodle assessment.
Monday	13	Exam 2
Wednesday	15	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 6 (pp. 50-57); OEgrammar online exercise 6A; translate Reading passage p. 55; translate <i>Judith</i> 1-34 (<i>OER</i> 126-27).
Friday	17	<i>GIOE</i> exercises 6A and 6B; read modern English translation of <i>Judith</i> (on Moodle); translate lines 285-321 (<i>OER</i> , 134-35)
Monday	20	Fall Recess, no class
Wednesday	22	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 7 (pp. 58-64); OEgrammar online exercise 7A; translate <i>Battle of Maldon</i> in modern English translation (on Moodle); translate lines 29-67 (<i>OHR</i> 68-69)
Friday	24	OEgrammar online exercise 7B; translate lines 280-324 (<i>OHR</i> , 76-77); <i>Dream of the Rood</i> in modern translation (on Moodle); translate lines 1-38 (<i>OER</i> 110-11)
Monday	27	<i>GIOE</i> ch. 8 (pp. 65-70); 8A (use <i>beran</i>) and 8B (p. 69 and 70); translate <i>Dream of the Rood</i> lines 39-74 (<i>OHR</i> 112-13).
Wednesday	29	OE grammar online exercises 8A; translate Riddles 2, 9, and 10 (<i>OER</i> 116-17).
Friday	31	OE grammar online exercises 8B and 8C; translate Riddles 12, 25, and 26 (<i>OER</i> 118-19).
Monday	November 3	<i>GIOE</i> Ch. 9 (pp. 71-77); <i>GIOE</i> exercises 9A and 9B (Riddle 46). Translate 31, 47, and 80 (<i>OER</i> 119-21).
Wednesday	5	OEgrammar online exercises 9A, 9C, 9D; <i>Husband's Message</i> in modern translation (on Moodle); translate lines 8-29 (<i>OHR</i> 136-37).
Friday	7	Review; translate
Monday	10	Exam 3
Wednesday	12	<i>GIOE</i> Ch. 10 (pp. 78-84); <i>GIOE</i> exercise 10B; OEgrammar online exercise 10A; translate
Friday	14	OEgrammar online exercise 10B and 10C; translate
Monday	17	<i>GIOE</i> Ch. 11 (pp. 85-91)
Wednesday	19	<i>GIOE</i> Ch. 12 (pp. 92-99); <i>GIOE</i> 12A and 12 C; translate <i>Battle of Maldon</i>
Friday	21	<i>ASLH</i> , Part 1 (1-32)
Monday	24	<i>ASLH</i> , Part 4 (Critical Approaches, 333-60)
W, F	26, 28	Thanksgiving Break, no class
Monday	December 1	<i>ASLH</i> , Part 5 (Themes, 361-80)
Wednesday	3	
Friday	5	

Monday	8	Exam 4
Wednesday	10	prepare for OE Open House
Sat	13	Old English Open House: 1-3pm