

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON  
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES**

**ENGL 321 Old English (2009 1/3)**

**Course organisation**

*Co-ordinator and tutor:* Dr Christine Franzen (VZ 919, 463-6805; home 476-6126);  
christine.franzen@vuw.ac.nz.

*Classes:* will be held in VZ 107 on Monday 12-1 and Wednesday 12-2. The Wednesday sessions are co-taught with ENGL 405. Additional information or changes will be announced at classes and posted on the course's Blackboard site.

**Course aims and objectives**

The course aims to give students a good reading knowledge of Old English based on attention to detail of vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. A major project will also give students the opportunity to learn transcription, editorial, and bibliographical skills. Students will be able to choose whether to concentrate more on linguistic analysis or literary analysis in part of this project. The course will concentrate on early and late West Saxon texts, but we will read a wide variety of them, including religious, historical, medical, legal, and poetic texts.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- demonstrate a good grasp of Old English grammar, vocabulary, and syntax;
  - translate the set texts demonstrating a good standard of accuracy and comprehension;
  - translate unseen Old English texts (with some glossing of difficult words);
  - transcribe Old English handwriting from manuscript facsimile;
  - understand and apply editorial principles in order to produce an edited text from manuscript facsimile, and a full glossary from an edited text;
  - use the resources available to produce a full annotated bibliography, conforming to the guidelines, for a selected Old English text; and
- above all, work to a high standard of accuracy, consistency, and attention to detail; and**
- demonstrate good work habits to co-ordinate and carry through a major project within an allotted time frame.**

**Textbooks**

Sweet, *Anglo-Saxon Reader*, rev. Whitelock (Oxford).

Quirk and Wrenn, *Old English Grammar* (Methuen) [highly recommended].

ENGL 321/405 Class Notes: *Old English*; and *The Lives of the English Saints* (from ENGL 215). [Students who have not taken ENGL 215 may find useful: ENGL 215 *Introductory Grammar*, also available from Student Notes]

**A reading list** may be found in the Class Notes book: ENGL 321/405 Old English.

**The course assessment consists of:**

1. A three-hour final examination (not open book), sometime during 12 June and 1 July, worth 40% consisting of: translation, seen (from Sweet XX and XXIII) and unseen; grammar; and OE prose style and linguistic analysis;
2. Two class tests (on Mondays of 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> week) worth a total of 30%, and consisting of translation taken from texts covered up to that point, with some unseen passages, and grammar questions;
3. One major assignment (an editorial project) worth 30% to be handed in by Friday 5 June. **Checkpoints will be set at various points for showing me drafts of sections of the project. This is to protect you in case you need to apply for an aegrotat and also to ensure that you do not leave all the work to the last minute.**

The tests are designed to check and encourage progress in developing a good reading knowledge of Old English through attention to grammar and vocabulary learning. The project is designed to develop research skills which will be invaluable in post-graduate courses and in many jobs.

**Due dates, extensions, and penalties for late work**

- (i) If you need an extension beyond the due date for your project, you must apply to me in writing **before** the due date, providing supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate, note from Counselling Service) if available.
- (ii) The project will be accepted without penalty until 5:00 on Wednesday 10 June. If the project is handed in late (that is, after 10 June) **without an extension**, it will be penalized by lowering the grade one step. Written work submitted late **without an extension** will be accepted **only** if received by 15 June, 5:00.
- (iii) Extensions will not be granted beyond 12 June without the prior permission of the Course Convenor, who may in exceptional circumstances grant extensions up to the last day of the examination period. The University does not permit the School to accept work after this date.

**Mandatory course requirements**

You must complete all the in-term written work above, including the checkpoints for drafts for sections of the project; you must attend a minimum of **70%** of the classes; and you are expected to come to class prepared and able to contribute. Any language course requires day by day work on translation, grammar, and vocabulary. It is up to students to ensure that they contact the course co-ordinator or another member of the class in the event of absence to ascertain the assignment for the following class. Absence is not an excuse for lack of preparation. The specific lines for translation will be posted on blackboard each week. I realize that sometimes other commitments may mean that you are not able to prepare the work properly for a particular class; thus allowances for occasional lapses will be made. It is better to come to class on such occasions; otherwise you will simply fall further behind.

**Workload** is as for all 300-level half-year courses, about 18 hours per week including class contact hours. This allows for translation, work on projects, and study for tests.

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such MATERIAL.

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **TRIMESTER DATES**

Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June 2009

### ENGL 321/405 Old English Course Schedule (2009)

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule below but some adjustment may be necessary. The specific lines to be translated for each session will be announced in class.

The two-hour Wednesday sessions as listed below are co-taught with ENGL 321. Monday sessions (one hour) are intended for ENGL 321 students only; ENGL 405 students may attend these sessions if they wish but will not be tested on the texts taught in the Friday sessions. In a separate hourly session on Tuesday 3-4, ENGL 405 students, in the course of the 12 weeks, will work through *Coursebook: Philology* and Sweet XXXI A, XXXII (A and B), and XXXVIII.

**The date and times for the tests in Weeks 6 and 9 for ENGL 405 students will be arranged to suit timetables.**

<i>ENGL 321 only</i>		<b>ENGL 321/405</b>	
1	<i>M 2 Mar</i> Grammar revision Oswald	<b>W 4 Mar</b>	Introduction Grammar revision <i>Life of Oswald</i> (Transcription)
2	<i>M 9 Mar</i> Oswald (cont'd)	<b>W 11 Mar</b>	Sweet XVII: Chronicle (Editing)
3	<i>M 16 Mar</i> Oswald (cont'd)	<b>W 18 Mar</b>	Sweet I, II: Cynewulf, Alfred (Projects)
4	<i>M 23 Mar</i> Oswald (cont'd)	<b>W 25 Mar</b>	Sweet IV (begin): Voyages (Projects)
5	<i>M 30 Mar</i> test #1	<b>W 1 Apr</b>	Sweet IV (finish) Sweet XI: Laws
6	<i>M 6 Apr</i> Sweet XX: Beowulf	<b>W 8 Apr</b>	Sweet XXVIII A, F: Riddles Sweet XIX B: A charm
<b>Mid Trimester Break</b>			
7	<i>M 27 Apr</i> Sweet XX: (cont'd)	<b>W 29 Apr</b>	Sweet X: Bede on Cædmon
8	<i>M 4 May</i> Sweet XX (cont'd)	<b>W 6 May</b>	Sweet XVI (begin): Wulfstan
9	<i>M 11 May</i> test #2	<b>W 13 May</b>	Sweet XVI (finish)
10	<i>M 8 May</i> Sweet XX (cont'd)	<b>W 20 May</b>	Sweet XXIII (begin): <i>Judith</i>
11	<i>M 25 May</i> Sweet XX (cont'd)	<b>W 27 May</b>	Sweet XXIII (cont'd)
12	<i>M 1 June</i> no class	<b>W 3 June</b>	Sweet XXIII (finish)

**Friday 5 June: PROJECT DUE**