

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

**ENGL 405: Medieval Studies: Old English (2009 1/3)**

**Course organisation**

*Co-ordinator and tutor:* Dr Christine Franzen (VZ 919, 463-6805; home 476-6126);  
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*Classes:* will be held in VZ 107 on Wednesday 12-2 and in VZ 919 on Wednesday 2-3. The Wednesday 12-2 sessions are co-taught with ENGL 321. The Wednesday 2-3 sessions are for ENGL 405 students only and will begin about Week 3. ENGL 321 has sessions on its own on M 12-1. ENGL 405 students may attend these sessions if they wish. 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 and to give an introduction to the phonology of Old English and the development of the English language from its Indo-European and Germanic origins to about the year 1100. A major project will also give students the opportunity to learn transcription, editorial, and bibliographical skills. The course will concentrate mainly on early and late West Saxon texts, but students will be expected to be able to recognize and discuss the main features of the Northumbrian and Mercian dialects as well as West Saxon.

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

- Demonstrate a good grasp of Old English grammar and vocabulary;
  - Translate the set texts demonstrating a good standard of accuracy and comprehension;
  - Translate unseen Old English texts (with some glossing of difficult words);
  - Recognise and describe some of the most important features in the development of early English;
  - Discuss the main features of, and differences between, the West Saxon, Northumbrian, and Mercian dialects;
  - 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*; *ENGL 405: Old English Language: Philology*; 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, grammar, and philology);
2. Two class tests (in 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> week, by arrangement) worth a total of 30% (consisting mainly of translation, with some unseen passages, grammar, and philology);
3. One major assignment (a transcription and editorial project) worth 30% to be handed in by Friday 5 June.

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 major project is designed to develop research skills which will be invaluable in other 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:**

1. You must complete all the in-term written work above.
2. You must attend a minimum of **70%** of the classes.
3. You are expected to come to class prepared and able to contribute. You may be asked to give a short presentation to the class on a philological or other topic.

Any language course requires day by day work on translation, grammar, and vocabulary. I realize, of course, that sometimes other commitments may mean that you have not been 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 **The specific lines for translation will be posted on blackboard each week. Absence is not an excuse for lack of preparation.** **Workload** is as for all 400-level half-year courses, about 24 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 Grammar revision Oswald</i>	<b>W 4 Mar</b>	Introduction Grammar revision <i>Life of Oswald</i> (Transcription)
2	<i>M 9 Mar Oswald (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 11 Mar</b>	Sweet XVII: Chronicle (Editing)
3	<i>M 16 Mar Oswald (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 18 Mar</b>	Sweet I, II: Cynewulf, Alfred (Projects)
4	<i>M 23 Mar Oswald (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 25 Mar</b>	Sweet IV (begin): Voyages (Projects)
5	<i>M 30 Mar test #1</i>	<b>W 1 Apr</b>	Sweet IV (finish) Sweet XI: Laws
6	<i>M 6 Apr Sweet XX: Beowulf</i>	<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 Sweet XX: (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 29 Apr</b>	Sweet X: Bede on Cædmon
8	<i>M 4 May Sweet XX (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 6 May</b>	Sweet XVI (begin): Wulfstan
9	<i>M 11 May test #2</i>	<b>W 13 May</b>	Sweet XVI (finish)
10	<i>M 8 May Sweet XX (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 20 May</b>	Sweet XXIII (begin): <i>Judith</i>
11	<i>M 25 May Sweet XX (cont'd)</i>	<b>W 27 May</b>	Sweet XXIII (cont'd)
12	<i>M 1 June no class</i>	<b>W 3 June</b>	Sweet XXIII (finish)

**Friday 5 June: PROJECT DUE**