

Origins of English 1

Module convenor: Dr Mark Faulkner

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Lecturers: Dr Mark Faulkner, Dr Alice Jorgensen

ECTS weighting: 5

Year: JF

Term taught: Michaelmas Term

Assessment: Continuous assessment

Note: This module is taught by one lecture and one language class each week throughout the term.

Module Description:

This module offers an introduction to Old English, the form of English used in England between the fifth and eleventh century beside languages like Celtic, Old Norse and Latin. We read a selection of Old English texts in translation, and begin to build students' confidence in reading texts in the original language through a variety of aids. A central theme of the course is the extent to which we can meaningfully locate the origins of England and the English in the Old English period. The module is designed to feed into Origins of English 2.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- navigate an Old English text using on-page glossing and grammatical annotation
- deploy a basic knowledge of Old English nouns and verbs
- relate selected Old English texts to their cultural and historical contexts
- examine ideas of identity and origins relating to Anglo-Saxon England

Indicative Schedule:

Week	Lecture	Class
1	Why Old English?	
2	Prehistory of English	Grammar basics; demonstrative <i>se, þæt, sēo</i>
3	National Origins (<i>Widsith</i>)	reinforce demonstrative; discuss <i>Widsith</i>
4	Workshop: sounds of Old English	Strong nouns
5	Christian Origins: <i>Æthelthryth</i>	Read portion of glossed <i>Æthelthryth</i> , discuss
6	Nouns workshop	Reinforce strong nouns. Weak nouns and verb 'to be'
7	Reading Week	
8	Cultural Encounters I: Celtic Peoples (<i>Riddle 12</i>)	Test on weak nouns and 'to be'; <i>Riddle 12</i>
9	Multilingualism	Weak verbs
10	Cultural Encounters II: The Danes (<i>The Battle of Maldon</i>)	Reinforce weak verbs; <i>The Battle of Maldon</i>
11	Verbs workshop	Strong verbs
12	Cultural Encounters III: Limits of the World (<i>Letter of Alexander or Ohthere and Wulfstan</i>)	<i>Letter of Alexander or Ohthere and Wulfstan</i>

Shakespeare

Module convenor: Prof Andy Murphy

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Lecturers: Prof Andy Murphy, Dr Björn Quiring, Dr Ema Vyroubalová

ECTS weighting: 5

Year: JF

Term taught: Michaelmas Term

Assessment: Exam

Module Description:

This module will offer an introductory survey for fresher students. It will begin by asking why Shakespeare is still considered a writer worth studying, four hundred years after his death – and why his work tends to be given a particular prominence within English Studies. Potential different approaches to studying his texts will be mapped out and considered. A selection of texts will then be examined over the course of the term, covering all of the main genres and all periods of the canon. The module will conclude by considering the question of how the study of Shakespeare's plays relates to theoretical issues more generally, before finally opening outward to consider the global context of Shakespeare dissemination and study.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will:

- have an understanding of the rationale for studying Shakespeare at university level
- have an understanding of the various interpretative strategies that can be brought to bear on Shakespeare's texts
- have a clear concept of the different genres in which Shakespeare worked
- have an understanding of the theoretical context of Shakespeare studies
- have an understanding of the global context of Shakespeare studies
- be able confidently and convincingly to discuss with their peers their ideas regarding the texts under study

- be able to write fluent and informed essays about the Shakespeare plays covered in the module

Module Outline:

- 1 Introduction: Why Shakespeare? (AM)
- 2 Approaches to Shakespeare (AM, EV, BQ)
- 3 *The Taming of the Shrew* (AM)
- 4 *Richard III* (BQ)
- 5 *Richard II* (EV)
- 6 *Measure for Measure* (EV)
- 7 Reading Week
- 8 *Macbeth* (AM)
- 9 *King Lear* (BQ)
- 10 *The Tempest* (AM)
- 11 Shakespeare and Theory (BQ)
- 12 Shakespeare Around the World (EV)

