

Origins of English 2

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ECTS weighting: 5

Year: JF

Term taught: Hilary 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 continues from Origins of English 1, but may be made available to students who have not taken this module if they have a suitable linguistic background (please contact the course co-ordinator). Together, Origins of English 1 and 2 offer an introductory course in Old English, the form of English used in England between the fifth and eleventh century beside languages like Celtic, Old Norse and Latin. In Origins of English 2 you will read a number of prose and poetic texts in the original language with the help of various aids. Central themes of the module are the emergence of traditions of poetic and prose composition in English and how texts written in Old English relate to later periods.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- translate Old English texts with the help of a grammar and glossary
- deploy a basic knowledge of Old English morphology and syntax
- place a range of Old English texts in their historical, literary, cultural and linguistic contexts
- analyse and evaluate translations of Old English texts

Indicative Schedule:

Week	Lecture	Class
1	Introduction and recap	
2	Prose origins: Alfred	<i>Preface to Pastoral Care</i>
3	Workshop: manuscripts	Irregular verbs
4	Poetic Origins I: Oral and Literate	Caedmon story
5	Workshop: sentence structure	Pronouns and adjectives
6	Poetic Origins II: Christian poetry	<i>Dream of the Rood</i>
7	Reading Week	
8	<i>Wanderer</i> I	translation & discussion
9	<i>Wanderer</i> II	translation & discussion
10	<i>Beowulf</i> I	translation & discussion
11	<i>Beowulf</i> II	translation & discussion
12	<i>Beowulf</i> in modern reception	discussion

