

## B.EP.204/M.EP.02b/b-L/c: Introduction to Medieval English Literature and Culture

<b>Term:</b>	Winter 17/18	<b>Instructor:</b>	P. S. Langeslag
<b>Time:</b>	Wed 4–6	<b>Office:</b>	SEP 2.306
<b>Room:</b>	VG 4.106	<b>Phone:</b>	0551/3919706
<b>Credits:</b>	6~8 (see module description)	<b>Office hours:</b>	Wed 2–3
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	none	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:planges@gwdg.de">planges@gwdg.de</a>

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the corpus and culture of Old and Middle English literature and trains them to read, translate, and interpret prose and verse texts from these traditions. Given the differences between Modern English and Old English in particular, the central intellectual challenge will be to come to grips with the grammar and vocabulary of at least one entirely new language. To accomplish this task, a considerable amount of class time will be spent becoming acquainted with the grammar and the translation of early English. In addition, students will learn to analyze medieval texts in their formal, literary, and cultural aspects.

### Aims

Students will

- Learn to read and translate Old English;
- Practise reading Middle English;
- Learn to analyze medieval narrative;
- Hone their skills writing close commentaries.

### Assessment

Written exam (120 minutes). Students are also expected to hand in a close commentary, which will not be marked but whose timely submission is a prerequisite for taking the exam.

### Required Texts and Resources

Mitchell, Bruce, and Fred C. Robinson. *A Guide to Old English*. 8th ed. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.  
(Earlier editions are equally admissible; the SEP library *Lehrbuchsammlung* has dozens of 7th eds.)

Additional materials will be provided on StudIP and/or handed out in class.

## Schedule

wk	date	topic	reading
1	18 Oct	Old English Basics and Nominals	
2	25 Oct	Old English Verbs	M&R §§ 1–62; Prognostics (handout)
3	1 Nov	Old English Modals	M&R §§ 87–130; Monastic Sign Language (handout)
4	8 Nov	Old English Adjectives and Adverbs	M&R §§ 206–211; Bede on Cædmon (M&R #9)
5	15 Nov	Old English Numerals	M&R §§ 63–76, 135; Bede on Cædmon
6	22 Nov	The Corpus of Old English	M&R §§ 82–6; Bede on Cædmon
7	29 Nov	The Close Commentary Format	<i>Dream of the Rood</i> (M&R #14)
8	6 Dec	The Exam Format	<i>Dream of the Rood</i>
9	13 Dec		<i>Dream of the Rood</i>
10	20 Dec	Middle English	<i>Dream of the Rood</i> ; <b>HAND IN COMMENTARY</b>
11	10 Jan	Chaucer	<i>The Franklin's Tale</i> (StudIP)
12	17 Jan	The Corpus of Middle English	<i>The Franklin's Tale</i>
13	24 Jan	Wrap-Up	<i>The Franklin's Tale</i>
14	31 Jan	<b>EXAM 16:00 sharp–18:00</b>	

## Diversity Statement

This course is run with the understanding that students bring a variety of backgrounds into the classroom in such domains as socioeconomics, appearance, culture, religion, political views, disability, gender, age, family situation, and sexual identity. With different backgrounds come different needs. If you feel your needs or those of a fellow student require special attention or are being compromised, please feel free to make this known to me by whatever channel seems most appropriate. (For more serious concerns, the Department, Faculty, and University each have their own points of contact as well.) I will treat all requests seriously and with confidentiality, and will seek to make accommodations within my abilities and reason. At the same time, you too owe it to your fellow students to treat them with respect regardless of their background and identity. University should be awesome — for everyone.