



A M B R O S E

EN 255 Old English Literature Fall 2010

Course Description

Beginning with the history of the English language, this course concentrates on the poetry from the earliest period of English literature. Students will receive an introduction to Old English, but the majority of texts will be studied in translation. This course is designed to identify the distinctive qualities of this literature and its role in forming the beginning of the English poetic tradition. *Beowulf*, in particular, will merit much consideration.

Class Schedules

Wednesday/Friday, 9:45-11:00
Room L2084

Instructor Information

Matthew McCabe mmccabe@ambrose.edu Room L2062
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30 - 4:30 or by appointment

Textbooks

Carole Hough and John Corbett. *Beginning Old English*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. (required)
Howell D. Chickering, Jr. (ed. and tr.). *Beowulf: A Dual-Language Edition*. New York: Anchor, 2006. (required)
EN 255 Coursepack. (Available in the bookstore starting the second week of class.)
The instructor will supplement these texts with photocopied readings to be distributed in class.

Course Outline

8 September	Introduction	
10 September	<i>The Battle of Maldon</i> ; Hough and Corbett (= H&C), ch. 1	
15 September	from Bede, <i>History</i>, (Situation of Britain; Edwin; Caedmon) ; H&C, ch. 2	
17 September	Alfred ; H&C, ch. 2	
22 September	<i>The Phoenix</i> ; H&C, ch. 2	<i>Contemplative 1 assigned: "The Whale"</i>
24 September	<i>The Panther</i> ; H&C, ch. 3	
29 September	from Riddles ; H&C, ch. 3	
1 October	from Riddles ; H&C, ch. 3	
6 October	from <i>Christ II</i> ; H&C, ch. 4	<i>Contemplative 1 due; Contemplative 2 assigned</i>
8 October	<i>The Wanderer</i> ; H&C, ch. 4	
13 October	H&C, ch. 4	

15 October	MIDTERM EXAM
20 October	<i>Spiritual Emphasis Days – 20-21 October – no class</i>
22 October	Deor ; H&C, ch. 5
27 October	The Wife's Lament ; H&C, ch. 5 <i>Contemplative 2 due</i>
29 October	The Husband's Message ; H&C, ch. 5
3 November	H&C Text A. Cynewulf and Cyneheard
5 November	Begin Chickering's <i>Beowulf</i> ; H&C Text A. Cynewulf and Cyneheard
10 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; H&C Text A. Cynewulf and Cyneheard
12 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; H&C Text B. Beowulf
17 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; H&C Text B. Beowulf
19 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; H&C Text B. Beowulf
24 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; The Dream of the Rood
26 November	<i>Beowulf</i> ; The Dream of the Rood
1 December	<i>Beowulf</i>
3 December	<i>Beowulf</i>
8 December	Final review <i>Essay due</i>

Note: readings in **bold** will be made available in the course pack.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students are expected to enhance their understanding of the early history of the English language.

Students are expected to gain a rudimentary knowledge of Old English vocabulary, morphology, and syntax.

Students are expected to develop a deep understanding of the cultural contexts and formal features of Old English literature.

Students are expected to develop an appreciation of Old English literature.

Students are expected to develop their ability to read critically and write about literature.

Course Requirements and Grade Calculation

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material attentively and thoughtfully.

Participation is worth 10% of the final mark. Each student's participation mark will be determined on the basis of his or her class contributions. (This presupposes the student's attendance.)

Students are required to submit three written assignments: Contemplative Reading Exercises 1 and 2 and a Research Essay of 6-8 pages. Further information on these will be given in class.

Students are required to study all material covered in assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions in preparation for a Midterm and Final Exams. Further information will be given in class.

Students are required to familiarize themselves with and learn the Modern English equivalents of the (approx.) 280 words in the word list that will be distributed early in the semester. Students are also required to commit to memory the paradigms covered in the readings from Hough and Corbett and in class.

Assessment directly focused on students' knowledge of Old English vocabulary, morphology, and syntax will provide approximately 25-30% of the final mark. In addition, students are expected to apply their linguistic knowledge to the study of Old English poetry by consulting the Old English text (e.g. in dual-language editions or in online Old English texts) where appropriate. Guidance will be given in class.

Examinations:

This course will have a final examination. Final examinations are held during a scheduled time period at the end of the semester for regular semester classes and are scheduled by the Registrar.

Please note: Students may request revised final exams if they have three exams in one 24-hour period or two exams at the same time. Final exam schedule revision request forms are available at the Registrar's Office and must be handed in by Monday, November 29, 2010 (Fall semester) or Monday, April 4, 2011 (Spring semester). If you do not have your request in by this date, all exams within a 24-hour period will have to be written as scheduled. If you have two exams at the same time, you will be given four hours to write both exams.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student. Please contact your instructor.

Grading:

	<u>Course weight</u>
Participation	10
Contemplative Reading Exercise 1	10
Contemplative Reading Exercise 2	10
Research Essay	25
Quizzes	6
Midterm Exam	14
Final Exam	25

Final grades for the course appear as letter grades. The table below shows the percentage equivalents for each letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	96-100	
A	91-95	Excellent
A-	86-90	
B+	82-85	
B	75-81	Good
B-	72-74	
C+	68-71	
C	63-67	Satisfactory
C-	60-62	
D+	59-59	
D	50-55	Minimal Pass
F	0-49	Failure

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for

appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – Friday, September 17, 2010 (Fall semester) or Friday, January 21, 2011 (winter semester). These courses will not appear on the student’s transcript.

*Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the “drop” date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a **new policy**, beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.*

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**) – Friday, November 12, 2010 (Fall semester) or Friday, March 18, 2011 (Winter semester). A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

The instructor reserves the right to prohibit laptops in the classroom should they prove to be a distraction. If this becomes the case, students should be prepared to take handwritten notes.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.