



OLD ENGLISH

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Weekly Overview

OBJECTIVES

WEEK 1

W 5 Sept.

- Introduction to the class.

F 7 Sept.

- Introduction to Old English language. Please look over [this handout](#) (Translating Inflected Languages)
- Read [*King Alfred's Grammar*](#), "How to Use this Grammar Book," "An Introduction to Old English," "Grammar Review: Parts of Speech," and "Grammar Review: Word Functions."

Please ensure you have the books for class. They're at [Amherst Books](#).



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WEEK 2: Phonology & Closed-class Words I

M 10 Sept.

- Mitchell & Robinson (hereafter MR), chs 1,2, and 3 (only §§ [sections] 10-21) due.
- Introduction to Word Hoard, pp. vii-xiii due.

W 12 Sept.

- Mitchell & Robinson (hereafter MR), chs 1,2, and 3 (only §§ [sections] 10-21) continued.
- King Alfred's Grammar (hereafter kA), chs. 1-4 and "Pronouncing Old English"

F 14 Sept.

- Personal pronouns.
- Try Old English Aerobics, sections 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Try some exercises in OE pronouns. Make some charts (e.g., in notes).
- *The Anglo-Saxons*, ed. Campbell (hereafter AS), chapter 1 on Roman Britain.



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WEEK 3: Syntax & Closed-class Words II

M 17 Sept.

- MR §§ 139-153; 213 and 214; 194; and 184.
- Practice Sentences (pp171-72).

W 19 Sept.

- Genesis 3, lines 1-7 (p174) due. Gen 3 can be downloaded in PDF format at [OEA](#).
- Word Hoard, 1-10 (try to learn these as best you can) 10 per week

F 21 Sept.

- Review **case**: ([kA](#), review chapters; and OEA, [nom.](#), [acc.](#), [dat.](#), and [gen.](#)).
- *The Anglo-Saxons*, ed. Campbell (hereafter AS), chapter 2 on the lost centuries.

QUIZ on personal pronouns, Roman Britain, vocabulary.



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WEEK 4: Articles & Nouns

M 24 Sept.

- MR 3 §§ 22-46 (make charts; memorize the weak declensions for m, f, n nouns) due.
- Word formation, esp. affixation: MR 4, §§136-38..

W 26 Sept.

- Concord, MR § 187.
- [kA](#), ch. 9; [OEA](#) § 6.
- MR Appendix B, pp. 159-60.
- Word Hoard, next 10
- [Caedmon's Hymn](#), pp. 221-222; (ll. 36-44, 1-17, and 18-35).

F 28 Sept.

- [Caedmon's Hymn](#), pp. 221-222; (ll. 36-44, 1-17, and 18-35).
- *AS*, chapter 3 on the first Christian kings.



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WEEK 5: NP Modification

M 1 Oct.

- MR §§ 154-65 first; then §§ 47-61; and §63-81 due.
- [kA](#), chs. 6, 7, and 8 due. [OEA](#) § 8.

W 3 Oct.

- Colloquy, pp. 182-89.
- Word Hoard, next 10

F 5 Oct.

- Colloquy, pp. 182-89.



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WEEK 6: Weak Verbs

M 8 Oct. Holiday. No class.

T 9 Oct.

- MR §§ 132-34 first; then §§ 195-212; then §§ 115-26.
- [kA](#), chs. 11-14; [OEA](#) § 7

W 10 Oct.

- MR Appendix C “Meter”, pp. 161-67.
- “**Dream of the Rood**” (ll. 1-77b) **due**; PDF for printing [here](#).
- [Word Hoard](#), next 10.

F 12 Oct.

- “**Dream of the Rood**” (ll. 1-77b) **due**; PDF for printing [here](#).
- *AS*, chapter 4 on the age of Bede.
- Browse [Rood and Ruthwell](#). The [Heliand \(description\)](#) and new edition by J Cathey.



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WEEK 7: Strong Verbs

M 15 Oct.

- MR §§ 87-114; review [kA](#), chs. 11-14.
- MR Appendix A, pp. 153-158 (very exciting!)

W 17 Oct.

- “**Dream of the Rood**” (ll. 78 to end) **due**; PDF for printing [here](#).
- Word Hoard, next 10.

F 19 Oct.

- “**Wulf & Eadwacer**” **due**; text for printing [here](#).
- AS, chapter 5 on the age of Offa and Alcuin.

QUIZ on TBA.

Additional resources: Athanasius, [Life of Anthony](#) ([Text Here](#)).



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WEEK 8: Midterm

M 22 Oct.

- *Wulf and Eadwacer*, continued;
- Review for Midterm

W 24 Oct.

- **MIDTERM EXAM**

F 26 Oct.

- Aelfric. *Preface* to Genesis, lines 1-80, pp. 191-193.



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WEEK 9: VP Modification

M 29 Oct.

- MR §§ 166-81; then §§ 135 due.

W 31 Oct.

- MR on Anglo-Saxon culture: §§ 215-251 due
- Riddles a, c, and d, pp. 232-36 due.

F 2 Nov.

- Riddles e, f, g, and j, pp. 232-36 due.
- *AS*, chapter 6 on the ninth century.



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WEEK 10: VP and Style

M 5 Nov.

- MR §§127-30; §§ 182-86 due..

W 7 Nov.

- *Wife's Lament*, pp. 264-67 due.

F 9 Nov.

- *Wife's Lament*, pp. 264-67 due.
- *AS*, chapter 7 on age of Edgar.



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WEEK 11: The Wanderer

M 12 Nov. Holiday. No Class.

- **No class.**

W 14 Nov.

- **Wanderer**, pp. 268-75 due

F 16 Nov.

- **Wanderer**, pp. 268-75 due.
- *AS*, chapter eight on the return of the Vikings.



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OBJECTIVES

WEEK 12: Judith

M 19 Sept.

- Read The *Battle of Maldon* in translation. ["Battle of Maldon" trans. \(Tour Maldon\)](#).
- **Judith**, pp. 300-312. [In html here](#). (First 14 lines)

W 21 Sept.

- **Judith**, pp. 300-312. [In html here](#). (Do as much as you can.)

F 23 Nov. Holiday. No class.

- **No class.**

Notes:

Here is the Book of Judith from the Catholic Bible. In Protestant Bibles, Judith is part of the Apocrypha. Here it is in the King James version.

A discussion of Judith in the Catholic Encyclopedia is [here](#).

Note the stylistic similarities between Maldon and Judith. Birds of prey, heroic sacrifice, and so forth. Why does the poet spend so much time describing violence? What stylistic effect does it have, and how does the style inform your understanding of Judith? Of Byrhtnoth? Why portray things that way, and not another?



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WEEK 13: Judith II

M 26 Nov.

- Judith continued . [In html.](#)

W 28 Nov.

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- Judith continued . [In html.](#)

F 30 Nov.

- Judith continued . [In html.](#)
- *AS*, chapter 9 on the end of Anglo-Saxon England.



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WEEK 14: Judith III

M 3 Dec.

- Judith continued . [In html.](#)

W 5 Dec.

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- Judith continued . [In html.](#)

F 7 Dec.

- Judith continued . [In html.](#)



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WEEK 15: Wrap-Up

M 10 Dec.

- Loose ends tied up. Bring in your translations & translation questions.

W 12 Dec.

- Review for final exam: grammar.

F 14 Dec.

- Review for final exam: literature. Final exam essay question handed out.

FINAL EXAM will be next week.