Spring 1-15-2014

ENG 5001-001: Studies in Old and Middle English Literature

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Course Objectives: The primary objective of the course is to attain a command of Old English such that, armed with a good dictionary, students will be able to translate virtually any piece of Old English Literature. A secondary objective, of course, is to come to an understanding of the culture, the literature, and the history of the Anglos-Saxons. To fulfill these objectives, the course meetings will be divided among lectures on aspects of language, history, and culture; student translations of literary works; and discussions of the literature that the students have translated.

Texts:

The Cambridge Old English Reader, Marsden, ed.
A Student Edition of Beowulf, Jack, ed.

Course Requirements:

Weekly translations 15%
Midterm 15%
Presentation 20%
Final Exam 25%
Research Paper 25%

My Expectations: At most universities, this course is taught at the graduate level, as it is here. Consequently, my expectations are that students work and learn at the graduate level. Late work and unfinished preparations, for example, are not indicative of work at that level. Moreover, students are expected to absorb much of the text’s presentation of grammatical and syntactical elements on their own, lectures on the readings intended to highlight critical areas. Finally, presentations to the seminar are expected to be amply researched, meaningful, and professional in presentation.
English 5001  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2014  
Shonk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; Backgrounds; Orthography; Phonology; Inflections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Nouns (Guide 20-30); Adjectives (Guide 31-34); Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Reader, years dccc lxxxi-dcccc xcvi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Strong Verbs (Guide 35-45); Chronicle, dccc xvii—Millesimo iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Weak Verbs (Guide 46-50); Anomalous Verbs (Guide 51-53); Adverbs (Guide 53-54); The City of Cannibals (to be provided)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Word Formation (Guide 55-60); Syntax (Guide 61-70); City of Cannibals (cont.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Syntax (Guide 70-81); Battle of Brunanburh (Reader 86-91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Syntax (Guide 81-92); Battle of Maldon (Reader 253-64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Spring Break—No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Syntax (Guide 93-103); Wanderer (Guide 280-87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Seafarer (Guide 288-94)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apr.  3  *Dream of the Rood* (Guide 268-757)

10  *The Miracle of Caedmon* (Guide 76-85); *A Translator’s Problems* (Reader 122-29)

17  *Wife’s Lament* (Guide 276-79); *Wulf and Eadwacer* (Guide 310-12); *Riddles*

24  *Satan’s Challenge* (Reader 130-37)

May  1  *Aelfric’s St. Edmund* (Guide 203-11)