

## English Linguistics: Old and Middle English (A002589)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2016-2017

A (semester 1)	English	research project	0.0 h
		group work	15.0 h
		seminar	15.0 h
		seminar: coached	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2016-2017

Van Herreweghe, Mieke LW06 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2016-2017

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Old English, Middle English, diachronic linguistics, historical linguistics

Position of the course

In this advanced subject translation skills are trained with respect to an older stage of English - i.e. Old and early Middle English, and structural insights in the language, cultural-historical insights in the society in which these texts were composed, and linguistic insights in the development of English since the beginning of the Middle Ages are offered.

Contents

Old English grammar; a survey of the most important extant Old and early Middle English texts (from prose texts such as the translation into Old English of AEIfric's "A Colloquy on the Occupations" to poetic texts as "Beowulf") and their translation into Modern English; the history and archeology of life in Anglo-Saxon England; the (socio-) linguistic development of Old and Middle English.

Initial competences

- Advanced C1 level usage of English including written and oral communicative skills.
- Thorough knowledge of the grammatical terminology needed for the morpho-syntactic description of Old and Middle English.

#### Final competences

- 1 Being capable of demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the morpho-syntactic structure of Old and Middle English.
- 2 Being able to translate Old and Middle English texts into Modern English (with the aid of a glossary).
- 3 Being able to explain Old and Middle English texts in their social-historical context.
- 4 Being able to link certain archeological artefacts to certain Old English texts or text fragments.
- 5 Being capable of demonstrating advanced knowledge of the most important cultural-historical themes in Anglo-Saxon society.
- 6 Being capable of demonstrating advanced knowledge of the most important developments in the linguistic evolution of Old and Middle English.
- 7 Being capable of demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the sociolinguistic situation of Middle English (in contact with other languages as (Norman) French and Latin).

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### Teaching methods

Group work, seminar, seminar: coached exercises, research project

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures alternating with independent work, student group presentations of translations prepared at home.
- Writing a historical linguistic research paper on the basis of a small but original study

#### Learning materials and price

Cost: 12.0 EUR

Syllabus

#### References

- Mitchell, B., *An invitation to Old English and Anglo-Saxon England*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.
- Mitchell, B. & Robinson, F.C., *A Guide to Old English*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2001 (6th edition).
- Baker, P., *Introduction to Old English*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.
- Turville-Petre, T. & Burrow, J.A., *A book of Middle English*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1992.
- Fennell, B., *A history of English: A sociolinguistic approach*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001.
- Brinton, Laurel & Arnovick, Leslie. *The English Language. A Linguistic History*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Class feedback.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination with open questions

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam (80%):

- translation of a discussed text
- translation of a new text
- questions about the grammar of Old and Middle English

- questions about the sociolinguistic, socio-cultural and historical context
- Research paper (20%):  
containing a small but original historical linguistic study

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one of the two parts of the course evaluation cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (80%) and Permanent (20%)

#### Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy