

Fresher/Sophister Module Description Template 2024-25

Full Name: Origins of English 2

Short Name: Origins of English 2

Lecturer Name(s) and Email Address(es): Mark Faulkner faulknem@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 5

Semester Taught MT/HT: HT

Year JF/SF/JS/SS: JF

Module Content:

Origins of English 2 follows on from Origins of English 1, which is taught in Michaelmas Term. While the focus of Origins 1 was on the national and cultural origins of the people who in the early Middle Ages spoke English, in Origins 2, it is on the origins of (literary) writing in English. Origins 1 introduced you to the Old English language and you started doing some translation of prose texts; in Origins 2, you will further develop your linguistic skills, and translate some Old English texts, both literally and (if you would like) creatively, looking at ways to bring Old English poetry back to life for modern audiences.

Note: As this module involves language teaching it has additional tutorials. Please check module Blackboard for the exact schedule.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- translate Old English texts with the help of a grammar and glossary
- deploy a basic knowledge of Old English morphology and syntax
- place a range of Old English texts in their historical, literary, cultural and linguistic contexts
- examine ideas of literary tradition and origins in Anglo-Saxon England
- discuss the relationship between Old English and the rest of their degree programme
- analyse and evaluate translations of Old English texts

Learning Aims:

The module will:

- with OoE1, form a basic course in Old English language, which would prepare students to undertake more advanced modules on Old English literature
- examine ideas of literary origins and tradition
- allow students to read a varied range of Old English texts, some in translation, some through heavily glossed texts, and some in the original
- encourage students to consider the position of Old English literature in the canon
- complement, contextualise and question some of the assumptions students may have about what it means to study English

Assessment Details:

- Number of components: 2
- 50% short answer linguistic questions on a passage assigned from one of the set texts
- 50% either (a) critical analysis of a published translation of an Old English work [1000 words]; (b) creative translation of twenty lines of an Old English work, plus commentary on its relationship to the original [1000 words]

Preliminary Reading List:

Textbook

Baker, Peter S., *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd edn (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012) [students will be expected to purchase this book]

Additional resources

Treharne, Elaine (ed.), *Old and Middle English c. 890-c. 1450*, 3rd edn (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012) [for additional primary texts]

Higham, Nicholas J., and Martin J. Ryan, *The Anglo-Saxon World* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2015)

Hough, Carole, and John Corbett, *Beginning Old English* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)

Magennis, Hugh, *The Cambridge Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Please note:

- Curricular information is subject to change.
- Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.