

Origins of English 1

Module convenor: Dr Alice Jorgensen.

Email address: jorgena@tcd.ie

ECTS weighting: 5

Year: JF

Term taught: Michaelmas Term

Assessment: Continuous assessment (50% grammar tests, 50% mini-essay)

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

Module description:

This module offers an introduction to Old English, the form of English used in England between the fifth and eleventh century beside languages like Celtic, Old Norse and Latin. We read a selection of Old English texts in translation, and begin to build students' confidence in reading texts in the original language through a variety of aids. A central theme of the course is the extent to which we can meaningfully locate the origins of England and the English in the Old English period. The module is designed to feed into Origins of English 2.

Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to

- navigate an Old English text using on-page glossing and grammatical annotation
- deploy a basic knowledge of Old English nouns and verbs
- relate selected Old English texts to their cultural and historical contexts
- examine ideas of identity and origins relating to Anglo-Saxon England

Reading:

Textbook: Peter S. Baker, *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd edn (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)

Additional texts and translations: Elaine Treharne (ed.), *Old and Middle English c. 890-c. 1450*, 3rd edn (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)

Primary texts: *Deor*, *Ælfric's Life of St Æthelthryth*, Exeter Book Riddle 12, *The Battle of Maldon*