

Fresher/Sophister Module Description Template 2024-25

Full Name: Origins of English 1

Short Name: Origins of English 1

Lecturer Name(s) and Email Address(es): Alice Jorgensen jorgena@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 5

Semester Taught MT/HT: MT

Year JF/SF/JS/SS: JF

Module Content:

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.

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 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

Learning Aims:

- lay the groundwork of basic Old English grammar necessary for accessing Old English texts in the original language
- introduce Old English literature
- introduce historical approaches to the English language
- learn about the origins of England as a political entity and the English as a nation, gaining appreciation of how these categories have come into being and changed over time

Assessment Details:

- Number of components: 2
- 50% average mark from online grammar tests (four tests taken in the course of the term)
- 50% mini-essay of 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.**