

Introduction to Old English Literature English 3015

Dr. Carmen Acevedo Butcher

Rome Hall 211
Hours on Office Door
706.233.7252
cbutcher(at)shorter.edu

Required Print Texts:

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Anglo-Saxon World*. Oxford: OUP, 1999. ISBN 0192835475.

Lacey, Robert and Danny Danziger. *the year 1000*. London: Little, Brown and Company, 1999. ISBN 0316511579.

Liuzza, Roy M. *Beowulf: a new verse translation*. Broadview Literary Texts, 2000. ISBN 1551111896.

Treharne, Elaine, ed. *Old and Middle English C. 890 – C. 1400: An Anthology (Blackwell Anthologies)*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. ISBN 1405113138

Treharne, Elaine M. and Duncan Wu, eds. *Old and Middle English Poetry*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003. ISBN 0631230742.

Required Online Resources:

www.carmenbutcher.com

Norton Anthology of English Literature Online Resources—see Beowulf link
<http://www.wwnorton.com/nael/welcome.htm>

Beowulf Teacher Resources: <http://www.leasttern.com/beowulf/bteacher.htm>
Many excellent links provided here.

The Electronic Beowulf (edited by Kevin Kiernan)
<http://www.uky.edu/~kiernan/eBeowulf/guide.htm>

Roy M. Liuzza's Online Study Guide for Beowulf:
<http://web.utk.edu/~rliuzza/Beowulf/>

This is a must-see, must-carefully-read site. It helps to vet for you the mountain of

Internet information on Beowulf. Professor Liuzza is currently at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Among other things, he has translated Beowulf splendidly (see below), and his credentials are listed on his home page at <http://web.utk.edu/~rliuzza/>

Beowulf in hypertext (plus a great Sutton Hoo helmet picture):
<http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~beowulf/>

Beowulf.org at
<http://www.beowulf.org/>

David Breeden Translation
<http://www.lone-star.net/literature/beowulf/>

Multi-Media Resources (to be viewed or listened to in class):

Baker, Graham. *Beowulf*. 1999. Film.

Crichton, Michael and John McTiernan, Directors. *The 13th Warrior*. 1999. Film.

Star Trek Voyager: Heroes and Demons. Episode 12. Television sci-fi episode.

Pollington, Stephen. *Aergeweorc: Old English Verse and Prose*. Anglo-Saxon Books, 2001. Tape. ISBN: 1898281203.

Eaton, Trevor. *Reads Beowulf [unabridged]*. Pearl, 1997. DVD. ASIN: B000000WWQ. Recording.

Gareth Hinds. *The Collected Beowulf*. Thecomic.com, 2000. Dynamic, well-illustrated, well-scripted comic book.

Other Suggested Resources:

Bjork, Robert E. and John D. Niles. *A Beowulf Handbook*, University of Nebraska Press, 1998. Excellent critical essays.

Donoghue, Daniel. *Old English Literature: a Short Introduction*. Maldon, MA: Blackwell, 2004. ISBN: 0-631-23486-1.

Gardner, John. *Grendel*. Vintage reissue, 1989. Modern retelling of this Anglo-Saxon work.

Karkov, C.E. *The Ruler Portraits of Anglo-Saxon England*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2004. ISBN: 1-84383-059-0.

McDowall, David. *An Illustrated History of Britain (Longman Background Books)*. Pearson Higher Education, 1989.

Pollington, Stephen. *The Mead-Hall: Feasting in Anglo-Saxon England*. Norfolk, England: Anglo-Saxon Books, 2003. illustrations by Lindsay Kerr, and bibliography. ISBN 1-898281-30-0.

Saul, Nigel. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Medieval England (Oxford Illustrated Histories)*. Oxford, 2001. ISBN: 0192893246.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the poetry and prose (*excluding* sermons) of the Anglo-Saxon period of English history, focusing on the earliest poetry, such as “Cædmon’s Hymn,” “The Dream of the Rood,” “The Battle of Brunanburh,” “The Battle of Maldon,” “The Ruin,” “The Wife’s Lament,” “The Wanderer,” “The Seafarer,” *Judith*, and *Beowulf*; also on Anglo-Saxon Riddles and Maxims; and on the earliest non-homiletic prose, such as Alfred the Great’s Preface to his translation of Gregory the Great’s *Pastoral Care*, his prose and verse translation of Boethius’ *Consolation of Philosophy*, selections from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, selections from Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, and Ælfric’s Preface to Genesis and Colloquy.

PREREQUISITE: English 1020

FINAL EXAMINATION: TBA

Classroom Policies

Grades: There will be five grades, each counting 20%. The grades are broken down into the following categories: at least two tests (a mid-term, a final, and other major tests and/or pop tests as needed); essays and/or presentation(s); graded homework; and daily in-class participation. A class’s strengths and weaknesses help determine what assignments will be required. Note that each grade (tests, assignments, and class participation) counts 20%. Therefore, only those students who attend class regularly, who come prepared, and who participate in a professional manner will earn the full 20% for class participation. Also see the attendance section of this syllabus. **Grading Scale: 90 – 100 A; 80 – 89 B; 70 – 79 C; 60 – 69 D; and Below 60 F**

Late Papers: Assignment due dates are clearly stated by the professor. Late work of any sort will be docked ten points for every day that it is late. Work over a week late will not be accepted.

Make-up Work: The student is responsible for being present for all presentations and examinations. Students who miss class (even for valid reasons) are expected to contact another classmate or the instructor about the make-up work. If the student fails to contact the instructor within one week of their return, he or she will not be allowed to make up the work.

Attendance: College policy mandates that students who miss more than one third of the classes in this course will be withdrawn from the class by the professor. That is 14 days

for MWF classes, and 10 days for TR classes. See the *Shorter College Academic Catalog*. Students in 1000/2000 level courses may not cut more than three classes during any one semester. **Being late three times constitutes an absence.** Be on time. One of this professor's pet peeves is when students come late because each class is a performance involving both the professor and the students who come prepared. Also, do not come by my office if you are sick. Go to the nurse. Stay in bed. And call me instead at 706.233.7252.

WARNING!

Academic Dishonesty: It is your responsibility to carefully read page 33 of the *Shorter College General Catalog*, as well as page A58 of the *Shorter College Student Handbook*. Students committing academic dishonesty will be punished according to these rules.

Any dishonest work (plagiarism, use of unauthorized assistance, or other dishonest work) will be given the grade of 0 (zero). Plagiarism involves presenting another person's work (whether taken from another student, from a printed source, or from an electronic source of any kind) as your own work, without giving credit to the author or source. Proper credit should always be given both for direct quotations *and* for ideas or information used from another source. Unauthorized assistance is defined as taking a test and using another student's paper, one's notes, prepared answers, cell phones, or other electronic devices for answers. Deliberately providing another student with unauthorized assistance is also considered academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to be aware of what constitutes "proper credit" and "unauthorized assistance." Read the rules, know them, and follow them.

It is the student's responsibility to be thoroughly familiar with the complete Academic Integrity Policy listed for your ease of reference at www.carmenbutcher.com under "Handouts," classified alphabetically under "Honesty."

Classroom Behavior: Students will be treated with respect, kindness, and the expectation that they will conduct themselves as the professional students they are. Students who disrupt class obstruct the learning process and will be called into the professor's office and asked to leave (and drop) the course. This class is a learning community; people who make it impossible for others to learn will not be welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY: If you have accessibility questions for which you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Director of Educational Support in FSU at 219.233.7323 as early as possible in order to discuss these needs.

**Do not bring any kind of food or drink to class.
Do not bring your cell phone to class.**

Course Objectives:

- Students will gain an ability to understand the cultures and literatures of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in England and elsewhere. (Educational Principle I, D2 and D3, TPP I-1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Students will learn to integrate their knowledge of Anglo-Saxon Literature with their knowledge of history, religion, art, and other subject areas. (Educational Principle IV, D1 and D3, TPP I-2, 4, 6)
- Students will develop critical thinking skills, interdisciplinary analysis, and proficiency in literary interpretation. (Educational Principle I, D1, TPP I-1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- Students will learn to analyze ancient manuscripts. (Educational Principle I, D1, TPP I-1, 4, 5, 6)
- Students will present an oral report of their findings on an assigned literary work. (Educational Principle III, D1, TPP I-1, 4, 5, 6 and TPP IV-6)