

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 609 01 (Topic 59)  
COURSE TITLE: Old English Poetry

Winter 2013

Instructor: Murray McGillivray

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 to 12:00

Homepage/course website: Google me—it's not that common a name.

Course description: An introduction to Old English poetry, with special attention to narrative verse, including *Beowulf* and Aelfric's *Lives of Saints*. Reading knowledge of Old English is not a prerequisite for this course, but students without it will acquire it in the course of the term—only early in the course will works be read in translation.

Texts and readings:

McGillivray, Murray. *A Gentle Introduction to Old English*. Peterborough ON: Broadview, 2010.

McGillivray, Murray, ed. *Old English Reader*. Peterborough ON: Broadview, 2011.

Liuzza, R.M., ed. and trans. *Beowulf: A New Verse Translation*. Peterborough ON: Broadview, 2000.

English 609 *Book of Readings* (Aelfric's *Lives of Saints*), available at the University Bookstore.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Grammar test: 25%

This test will be written in class about six weeks into the course (date TBA) and will test your knowledge of Old English grammar.

Seminar presentation: 15%

Each student will prepare and present introductory remarks of about a half hour to start discussion of a poem.

In-class translation: 25%

Beginning in the fourth week of class, students will prepare passages of poetry for in-class translation; this will become a more central feature of class work as the term goes on.

Final essay:

35%

Each student will submit an article-length (15- 20 page) paper on some aspect of Old English poetry at the end of class. This paper may be on the same poem chosen for the seminar presentation.

There is no final examination in this class.

Students must submit all assignments to achieve a passing grade in the course.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

### **Grading system:**

The University of Calgary's four-point Graduate Grading System, as described in the Graduate Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/gc-e-1.html>), will be used in this course.

□ A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

### **Electronic devices:**

Students may use electronic devices such as smart phones, tablets, and laptops in class to research information useful for class discussion. Accessing an online translation of a poem during in-class translation will be treated as plagiarism. Electronic devices are not permitted during the Grammar Test.

### **Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### **English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>.

### **Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



### **Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate

Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Barbara Howe at 403 220 5484 or visit her in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact Barbara Howe at [howe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:howe@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Graduate Program Director.

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Contact for the Graduate Student Association:** <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/Contact for Students>

**Ombudsman’s Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

### **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.