ENG 325
MASTEREMNE I ENGELSK LINGVISTIKK III
SPRING 2014

OLD ENGLISH

Instructur: PhD Research Fellow Kristian A. Rusten
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth examination of some aspects of Old English (OE) language, i.e. English as it is attested prior to *c*. 1150. Primary focus is on West Saxon, the main literary dialect of OE. The course combines philological and linguistic approaches to OE language, and is roughly comprised of three parts. The first part of the course assumes a philological outlook, and considers essential aspects of OE phonology, morphology, vocabulary and basic syntax, as well as the nature of the extant textual sources. It also considers the relationship between the manuscripts and the modern editions. The second part of the course focuses on linguistic analysis of extracts from numerous authentic texts, as well as on theoretical literature concerned with various aspects of OE syntax, including word order and the realisation of pronominal subjects. The third and final part of the course deals with the usefulness of modern corpus methods in investigating English in a diachronic perspective.

READING LIST*

Brief overview (obligatory):

Crystal, David. 1995. *The Cambridge history of the English language*, 6–29. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Text book (obligatory):

Baker, Peter S. 2012. *Introduction to Old English*. 3rd edn. Malden: Blackwell.

Overview of OE literature (obligatory):

Treharne, Elaine & Phillip Pulsiano. 2001. An introduction to the corpus of Anglo-Saxon vernacular literature. In Phillip Pulsiano & Elaine Treharne (eds.), *A companion to Anglo-Saxon literature*, 3–10. Oxford: Blackwell.

Articles, chapters and dissertation excerpts (obligatory):

Bech, Kristin. 2000. *Word order patterns in Old and Middle English. A syntactic and pragmatic study*. Doctoral diss., University of Bergen (selected sections).

Denison, David. 1986. On word order in English. *Dutch Quarterly Review of Anglo-American Letters* 16: 277–295.

Fischer, Olga, Ans van Kemenade, Willem Koopman & Wim van der Wurff. 2000. *The syntax of Early English*. Cambridge syntax guides. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gelderen, Elly van. 2013. Null subjects in Old English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 44: 271–285.

Heggelund, Øystein. 2010. *Word order in Old and Middle English subordinate clauses.* PhD diss., University of Bergen (selected sections).

Koopman, Willem. 1997. Another look at clitics in Old English. *Transactions of the Philological Society* 95: 73–93.

Mitchell, Bruce & Fred C. Robinson. 1994. *A guide to Old English.* 5th edn, 61–70, Oxford: Blackwell.

Rusten, Kristian A. 2013. Empty referential subjects in Old English prose. A quantitative study. *English Studies: A Journal of English Language and Literature* 94: 970–992.

Rydland, Kurt. 1994. English historical phonology. Compendium, English dept., University of Bergen, 1–8.

Walkden, George. 2013. Null subjects in Old English. *Language Variation and Change* 25: 155–178.

* Baker (2012) and Fischer et al. (2000) may be obtained free of charge in electronic version when accessed via the University of Bergen Library. Electronic versions of Bech (2000) and Heggelund (2010) are available at bora.uib.no. Journal articles may be downloaded from the websites of the respective journals (free of charge when accessed via the University of Bergen Library). Mitchell & Robinson (1994), Rydland (1994), Crystal (1995) and Treharne & Pulsiano (2001) will be distributed in class.

Grammar (for reference; non-obligatory):

Quirk, Randolph & Christopher L. Wrenn. 1994 [1957]. *An Old English grammar.* 2nd edn. London: Methuen.

Other reference works (non-obligatory)

Bosworth, Joseph & T. Northcote Toller. 1898. *An Anglo-Saxon dictionary*. London: Oxford University Press (online edition available at www.bosworthtoller.com).

The Dictionary of Old English web corpus (http://tapor.library.utoronto.ca/doecorpus).