

**Early Medieval Literature, 650-1350**  
**Preliminary Reading List – Old English Literature**

As part of the Early Medieval Literature, 650-1350 paper, you will study the language and the literature of the Anglo-Saxon period, beginning with Old English language classes in Michaelmas and continuing with classes and tutorials in Hilary and Trinity terms. Below is a preliminary reading list providing details of the recommended books.

**Language:**

Although Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson's *A Guide to Old English* (below) is the standard language workbook for Old English, the *Cambridge Old English Reader* ed. Richard Marsden (Cambridge, 2004) is also useful.

Mitchell, Bruce and Fred C. Robinson, *A Guide to Old English*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)

**Historical Background:**

Campbell, James (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1991)

Fleming, Robin, *Britain after Rome: The Fall and Rise, 400 to 1070*, Penguin History of Britain, 2 (London: Penguin, 2011)

Stenton, Frank, *Anglo-Saxon England*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001)

**Beowulf:**

You should read Michael Swanton's translation of *Beowulf* and refer to the Old English text presented on facing pages. The standard edition of the Old English text, however, is Friedrich Klaeber's *Beowulf*, and this edition should be the one cited in your essays later in the year. Both of these texts will be used in the teaching of *Beowulf*.

Fulk, R. D., Robert E. Bjork, and John D. Niles (eds), *Klaeber's 'Beowulf' and 'The Fight at Finnsburg'*, Toronto Old English Series, 21, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008)

Swanton, Michael (ed. and trans.), *Beowulf*, rev. ed. (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1997)

**General Literary Criticism:**

Donoghue, Daniel, *Old English Literature: A Short Introduction* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004)

Fulk, R. D. and Christopher M. Cain, *A History of Old English Literature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)

Godden, Malcolm and Michael Lapidge (eds), *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Pulsiano, Phillip and Elaine Treharne (eds), *A Companion to Anglo-Saxon Literature*, Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture, 11 (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008)

Prof Andy Orchard

### **Advance reading list for Paper One: Introduction to Language and Literature**

This paper is intended to introduce you to the English language and to English literature as a discipline with its variety of approaches to reading literary texts and literary criticism. In Michaelmas the concentration is on language and its literary ways; in Hilary the concentration is more on approaches, theories and critical practices. There is a course of core lectures which run weekly through Michaelmas and Hilary terms. These are supplemented by College classes and tutorials.

Over the summer, please acquire a copy of:

- Sara Thorne, *Mastering Advanced English Language*, 2nd edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

This is a useful transitional textbook which will help you get up to speed at the start of the course, and will remain a convenient reference tool afterwards. Feel free to buy this book second-hand, but please make sure it's the 2008 second edition and not the 1997 first edition. **Please read the first chapter (pages 3–46) before our first class for this course.** You need not do the exercises included in the chapter, unless you want to tackle them simply as an aid to your reading.

As further preparatory reading over the summer, we recommend one or more of these three titles:

- Ronald Carter and Walter Nash, *Seeing Through Language: a Guide to Styles of English Writing* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990)
- Jonathan Culpeper, *History of English*, 2nd edition (London: Routledge, 2005) (there are three editions of this—from 1997, 2005 and 2015—and, in this case, any edition will be useful; the third edition is just a bit more up-to-date with current scholarship)
- Annabelle Mooney and others, eds, *The Language, Society, and Power Reader* (London: Routledge, 2011)

Each of these relates to a different aspect of the paper.

Dr Daniel Sawyer

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For the Hilary Term segment of this paper you will find the following useful.

Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (2009)

Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2000)

Dr David Russell