

ENGL 3216: Topics in Medieval Literature  
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## Introduction to Old English Language and Literature

This course will prepare you to read the earliest English writings in their original language. We will work extensively on grammar (Old English is different enough from Present Day English that it must be taught as a foreign language) to give us the means to read and think about some of the most beautiful and nuanced poetry in English, including shorter poems such as *The Wife's Lament*, *The Wanderer*, *The Dream of the Rood*, and riddles; selections from the biblical *Judith*; Alfred's Preface to Gregory's *Pastoral Care*, and other prose and verse. We'll also give Peter Baker's translation of *Alice in Wonderland* into Old English a try, with special attention to modifications he made to accommodate Anglo-Saxon culture, and have a look at art objects and built space for broader context. The course additionally offers some background in the place of early English studies in antiracist movements within medieval studies, and the framing of a Global Middle Ages.

Course assignments include extensive language exercises and exams, as well as short writing assignments and a research project.

### Required texts:

Peter S. Baker, *Introduction to Old English*, 3d ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 978-0-470-65984-7  
Peter S. Baker, trans., *Æðelgýðe Ellenðáða on Wundorlande* (Evertype, 2015), 978-1-78201-112-5  
John Blair, *The Anglo-Saxon Age: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2002), 978-0-19285-403-2