Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 3280	Course Title: Old English Literature	Date of Offering: Winter 2018

Course Instructor: S. D. Powell	

Brief Course Synopsis:

This course provides an introduction to Old English language and literature.   Old English, sometimes called Anglo-Saxon, is the language spoken in England roughly from A. D. 700 to 1100; modern English is derived from Old English.   The Old English people had a rich literary tradition, producing prose and poetry that is still read and admired for its evocative language, compelling narratives, and thematic complexities.

By the end of the term, you will have had a chance to read several of these works, some in the original and some in modern English translations.   To read Old English works in the original language is a treat that is denied to most university students, in part because the language is significantly different from modern English.   But through the course of the term, you will acquire a solid foundation in Old English through intensive study of the language's grammatical structures and vocabulary.   Although Old English requires such study, even for basic comprehension, you may find that you will acquire the knack for it relatively quickly, since the language is, after all, closely related to the English we speak today.

Throughout the course, we will be discussing literary texts as evidence for the cultural characteristics of these early English people and as poignant investigations of matters that are still important for us today—grief, love, death, and war.   Your understanding of the nuances of these texts will be enhanced by the effort you put into reading them in their original language.

Please note that, although the goal of this course is to be able to read and critique Old English literary texts, a substantial portion of the evaluation is of students' acquisition of the fundamentals of Old English grammar and vocabulary.

Course Format: Lecture with discussion	Methods of Evaluation and Weights: In-class responses to literary texts 5%

	Homework 15%
	Language quizzes (5x4%) 20%
	Tests (3x12%) 36%
	Final exam 24%
	(all of this is subject to change)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Peter S. Baker, <u>Introduction to Old English</u>, 3rd ed.
<u>The Anglo-Saxon World: An Anthology</u>, ed. and trans. Kevin Crossley-Holland

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):