Medieval Latin (Beginners)

Course Convenor: Dr Michele Campopiano

Course Description

The Autumn term provides an introduction to the foundations of Latin, going over basic Latin grammar and moving quickly into translation of simple documents. Students will also learn the basic vocabulary for wills, charters, and other legal documents, and gain some experience of translation of these documents and other narrative texts. They will also learn to use a dictionary.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should:
- have a sound grasp of basic Latin grammar and some familiarity with more complicated grammatical constructions
- be able to read simple documents with confidence and to attempt slightly more difficult ones with help
- be able to extract the information they want from documents which they may not be able to translate in full

Teaching Programme

- the five declensions of nouns
- adjectives
- the four conjugations of regular verbs in the active indicative
- the verb ‘to be’ in the indicative
- adverbs
- irregular verbs
- pronouns
- passive and deponent verbs
- participles
- accusative and infinitive constructions
- ablative absolutes
- subjunctives
- gerunds and gerundives

Preliminary Reading

Grammar and Dictionary
A grammar and dictionary are recommended to all students for their own reference and for use during seminars:

- Cassell’s New Latin-English, English-Latin Dictionary
Medieval Latin (Intermediate)
Course Convenor: Dr Michele Campopiano

Course Description
In both terms, the first part of each class will be devoted to grammar. The rest of the seminar is dedicated to the reading and translation of Latin texts selected from a range of sources including: histories, poetry, chronicles, hagiographies, sermons, philosophical work, scientific texts, documents, monastic rules, fables and liturgical books. This reading and translation activity will be based on weekly assignments prepared in advance by the students. The Autumn term is aimed at revising the fundamentals of the Latin morphology and study of its evolution in Late Antiquity and Middle Ages. The Spring term will focus on the more complicated grammar constructions, looking at their specific medieval developments as well. The study of grammar will be paced according to the group’s level. The topics listed under ‘Teaching Programme’ form the frame around which the course will be tailored. Grammar points will be introduced with the aid of the recommended grammar textbook, handouts and practice sentences on the topic of the week, starting to introduce the students also to some aspects of the evolution of Latin morphology and syntax in the Middle Ages.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course students should:

- be able to recognise and identify the different components of the Latin sentence
- be able to read and translate, with the aid of a dictionary, texts of varying degrees of difficulty
- feel confident in approaching a Latin text regardless of its linguistic register

Teaching Programme
Note: each of these topics may take more than one week to develop. Overlap with topics covered in Beginner or Advanced may occur depending on the level of the class.

- Developments of Latin morphology
- subjunctive
- ablative absolutes
- syntax of nouns
- syntax of verbs, general
- syntax of verbs: types of sentences
- uses of the indicative
- uses of the subjunctive
- uses of non-finite forms of the verb (participles, gerunds, and gerundives)

Preliminary Reading
A grammar and dictionary are recommended to all students for their own reference and for use during seminars:

- Morwood, J., A Latin Grammar (Oxford, 1999)-it will be necessary to purchase a copy of this book.
- Cassell’s New Latin-English, English-Latin Dictionary
Medieval Latin (Advanced)

Course Convenor: Dr Michele Campopiano

Course Description
In the Autumn term the focus of each class will be on reading texts from a variety of sources, such as consolatory literature, letters, histories, debates, philosophical and theological treatises, poems, songs, vision literature, as well as the more difficult hagiographies, in order to develop speed and accuracy in translation. There will be weekly assignments, which students are required to prepare in advance, but there will also be some emphasis on sight-reading.

In the Spring term emphasis will continue to be on reading comprehension of texts selected from the genres listed above, drawing on the student’s own research interests. Speed and accuracy of translation will be the primary targets. Textual selections will cover, insofar as is possible, the period from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance, analysing different aspects of the evolution of Latin language in this phase of its history. For seminar, students will be required to read lengthy passages (but no more than four printed pages) and should be prepared to discuss any point of interest with regards to grammar, content, and editorial principles. The study of the historical development of the Latin language will be also addressed from Late Antiquity to Humanist Latin will be also addressed.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course students should:
• have the ability and the confidence to approach any Latin text for their own independent research
• be able to skim over lengthy pieces of text quickly and with minimal dictionary consultation
• develop a critical understanding of the basic editorial principles of medieval Latin material

Teaching Programme
N/A - this varies greatly from year to year depending on the level of the class.

Preliminary Reading
A grammar and dictionary are recommended to all students for their own reference and for use during seminars.

Recommended Dictionary:
• Cassell’s New Latin-English, English-Latin Dictionary

Recommended Grammars:
It is requested to have a copy of: Morwood, J., A Latin Grammar (Oxford, 1999)
Other recommended grammars include
• Gildersleeve, B.L. and G. Lodge, Gildersleeve’s Latin Grammar, 4th rev. ed. (Mundelein, IL,1999) OR
Old English (Beginners)

Course Convenor: Prof Elizabeth Tyler

Course Description

The aim of the Old English Beginners course is to introduce complete beginners, or those with only a little experience, to the fundamentals of Old English grammar, and to develop in them a reading knowledge of the language.

In the Autumn Term the emphasis will be on learning the basics of Old English grammar, and reading some short passages of text. Topics covered will include the following:

- pronunciation
- nouns and cases
- pronouns and demonstratives
- adjectives
- strong, weak and irregular verbs
- points of syntax

In the Spring Term the format will be more that of a reading group, working through texts in Baker’s *Introduction to Old English*, and revising and supplementing knowledge of grammar through various exercises.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be expected to have acquired:

- a sound grasp of the fundamentals of Old English grammar
- an ability to read Old English texts with the use of a glossary and to attempt sight-reading of simple texts
- an ability to extract the information they want from texts which they may not be able to translate in full

Preliminary Reading

The prescribed textbook will be as follows:

The following dictionary is also recommended:
Old English (Advanced)

Course Convenor: Prof Elizabeth Tyler

Course Description

This course is intended for students with some previous experience in Old English. The teaching programme will vary from year to year, depending on the level of the class, but will involve the reading of a wide range of texts from the prescribed textbook, supplemented by grammar exercises and unseen translations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

- a secure command of Old English grammar
- fluent reading skills in the Old English language
- familiarity with a wide variety of Old English texts

Preliminary Reading

The prescribed textbook will be as follows:
Sweet’s Anglo-Saxon Reader in Prose and Verse, revised by Dorothy Whitelock

Consultation of the following readers is also suggested, especially for their sections on grammar:

The following dictionary is also recommended:
Old Norse

Course Convenor: Dr Matthew Townend

Course Description

The aims of the Old Norse language course are to introduce beginners, or those with only a little experience, to the fundamentals of Old Norse grammar, and to develop in them a reading knowledge of the language.

In the Autumn term the emphasis will be on learning the basics of Old Norse grammar, and reading some short passages of text. Topics covered will include the following:

- pronunciation
- nouns and cases
- pronouns and demonstratives
- adjectives
- strong, weak and irregular verbs
- points of syntax

In the Spring term the format will be more that of a reading group, working through extracts from Faulkes’ Reader (chosen according to the students’ interests), and revising and supplementing knowledge of grammar through unseens and other exercises.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be expected to have acquired:

- a sound grasp of the fundamentals of Old Norse grammar
- adequate reading skills in the Old Norse language
- an ability to find their way through texts which they may not be able to translate in full

Preliminary Reading

The prescribed textbooks will be as follows:

- Michael Barnes, A New Introduction to Old Norse: Part I Grammar (3rd ed., 2007)
- Anthony Faulkes, A New Introduction to Old Norse: Part II Reader (4th ed., 2007)
Old French

Course Convenor: Dr Henry Bainton

Course Description

The long career of French as a prestige vernacular makes it a strong presence in most European medieval literary cultures, and Old French is of special importance to the study of medieval Britain and Ireland. From the early twelfth to the fifteenth centuries it was a major language for both literary and documentary texts in the British Isles. This module uses a textbook offering standardized linguistic information and paradigms, but working with and specifically commenting on texts in many dialects, including Anglo-Norman. This module will equip students to begin work on almost any Old French text.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the two-module course students should:

- have the confidence and capacity to enjoy medieval French texts in the original language.
- understand the basic medieval history of the French language, including dialects and major linguistic changes.
- be able to translate Old and Middle French texts for their MA research.

Prerequisites and Teaching Programme

This class is open to anyone with a solid background in French or Latin (high school or above), though any student with a strong interest in Old French materials is encouraged to speak to me. In the first term we will cover the basics of Old French grammar, introduce Old French dialects, and begin to work with Old French texts in the original. The second term will provide a more in-depth presentation of Old French philology and include more extended passages from primary sources. Time will also be given over to enrichment topics, possibly including the performance, metrics, palaeography, and sociolinguistic variation of Old French texts. The Anglo-Norman Reading Group that runs in the Spring and Summer terms will offer students additional reading practice and a deeper understanding of the cultural history of Old French in Britain and Ireland.

Textbook for Purchase:


Recommended Preliminary Reading

The on-line Anglo-Norman Dictionary has a good overview of the French of England by William Rothwell. You can google to this excellent, free dictionary, or go to the Anglo-Norman hub at www.anglo-norman.net


Palaeography

Course Convenor: Prof Linne Mooney

Course Description:
A course to enable students to transcribe, fully, manuscripts and documents of their chosen period, and to understand when, how and why such texts were produced. Students should then be able to use texts in their own work with confidence and be able to edit where necessary.
1. Autumn term, wks 2-6; 5 x 2 hrs. Lectures with practical work, to introduce scripts from pre-Caroline reforms (6-7c) to the beginnings of Secretary (up to 16c).
2. Autumn term, wks 7-9 and Spring term, wks 2-9; 11 x 2 hrs. Four seminar groups will be offered (see below), from which students will choose one. These seminars will be detailed and practical; and students will be tested at the end, in week 10, by transcription exercises, possibly also (as appropriate) by comprehension/use questions.

Learning Outcomes:
• that students should be able to transcribe, fully, documents and manuscripts of their chosen period, in the languages used in texts written in England
• that students should understand when, how and why such texts were produced
• that students should be able to use such texts in their own work with confidence and be able to edit where necessary

Teaching Programme:
In the Autumn term, weeks 2-6, there will be five 2 hour lecture/seminars to introduce scripts from before the Caroline reform (6-7c) to the beginnings of Secretary (c. 16c):
Week 2 Introduction to Palaeography
Week 3 Caroline minuscule and English script to the eleventh century
Week 4 Book hands from the twelfth to sixteenth centuries
Week 5 Administrative hands from the eleventh to fifteenth centuries
Week 6 Review and lecture on How to Describe a Medieval Manuscript

In week 5 you will be given a form to complete and hand in by the end of the week, choosing which option you wish to take for the rest of the Autumn term (wks 7-9) and the Spring term (wks 2-9). These seminars will be detailed and practical, focusing on the period or type of document on which you wish to specialize; there will be an exam with focus on your period at the beginning of summer term. If numbers permit, there will be four groups:
1. Early Medieval: Caroline to Gothic; the development of scripts from the ninth to late eleventh-twelfth centuries.
2. High Medieval: Gothic to English cursive; mainly book-hands from the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.
3. Document Hands: Gothic to cursive; the emphasis will be on administrative hands.
4. Late Medieval: English vernacular, mainly literary, hands from the late fourteenth century to the rise of printing.

Preliminary Reading: No preliminary reading is required.