B.A. (Bachelor of Arts)

Dr. Rainer Holtei M.A.
B.A.-Basismodul: Introduction to Medieval English Studies - Module II: Advanced
Mi. 14.00-16.00
Geb. 23.21 Raum U1.93   **Beginn: 13.04.2005**

This course is the second module of the *Introduction to Medieval English Studies* in the B.A. programme. Its basic objective is to apply and enlarge the knowledge and skills acquired in Module I with regard to the history of the English language and medieval English literature. The plan of the course immediately reflects its aims, i.e. application and re-organization of knowledge, enlargement of reading and translation skills, and more detailed methodological knowledge:

1. Foundations of Modern English (I)
2. Foundations of Modern English (II)
3. The Sound of English (I)
4. The Sound of English (II)
5. The Making of: *Words* (I)
6. The Making of: *Words* (II)
7. Tyrannosaurus Lex (I)
8. Tyrannosaurus Lex (II)
9. The Making of: *Sentences* (I)
10. The Making of: *Sentences* (II)
11. Option
12. Variety Is the Spice of Life (I)
13. Variety Is the Spice of Life (II)
14. Achievement Test (Module I and II)
15. Achievement Test (Module I and II)

A workbook containing the texts and materials used in the seminar will be available in printed form at the beginning of the term. The course will also be accompanied by an online version:

www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/anglist1/staff/holteir/ba/intro2/

Both versions, the printed book and the offline website, are available on CD-ROM in our office rooms (Geb. 23.21, Rooms 1.71, 1.72, or 173).

Recommended reading:

Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language.* Cambridge 1995:4-55.

Voraussetzungen:	Introduction to Medieval English Studies – Module I: Elementary
Leistungsnachweis:	Abschlussprüfung Module I und II (mündlich)
Credit Points;	2 (Teilnahme) + 4 (Abschlussprüfung)
Veranstaltungstyp:	Pflicht B.A.

!!! Highly recommended !!!

Anne MacDonald. Begleitübung zur Introduction to Medieval English Studies, Module II: Advanced (BA)
Ort: Geb. 23.21 Raum: U1.64 Zeit: Mo. 13:00 - 14.30 Beginn: 18.04.2005

Dr. Rainer Holtei M.A.
Übung: Introduction to Medieval English Studies, Part II: Old English
Mi. 11.00-13.00
Geb. 23.21 Raum U1.91   **Beginn: 13.04.2005**

This course is one of the obligatory second parts of the *Introduction to Medieval English Studies: General*. Its basic objective is to give students the opportunity to repeat and, at the same time, enlarge their knowledge of the Old English period.

We will mainly translate 10th-century West Saxon verse and prose texts. In order to do this more easily and competently we will start with a crash-course on Old English grammar which provides basic knowledge of OE phonology and morphology. Each unit will be divided into a part focussing on grammatical issues and a second part consisting of a reading and translation practice.

The plan of the course immediately reflects its aims, i.e. detailed knowledge of the characteristic features of OE, a certain amount of reading and translation skills, and elementary methodological knowledge:

1. Repetition: What is Old English
2. Phonological features
3. Spelling and pronunciation
4. Morphology: Nominal
5. Morphology: Nominal
6. Morphology: Verbal
7. Morphology: Verbal
8. Morphology: Word-formation
9. Lexicon
10. Regional Varieties
11. Standardisation
12. Option / Repetition
13. Achievement test: Parts I and II

A workbook containing the texts and materials used in the seminar are available in our office rooms (Geb. 23.21, Rooms 1.71, 1.72, or 173).

Recommended reading:

Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language.* Cambridge 1995:4-29.

Bruce Mitchell. *An Invitation to Old English and Anglo-Saxon England.* Oxford 1995.

Voraussetzungen:	Introduction to Medieval English Studies: Part I: General
Leistungsnachweis:	Abschlussprüfung Teil I und II (mündlich)
Veranstaltungstyp:	Wahlpflicht Magister/Prom

!!! Highly recommended !!!

**Daniel Müller. Begleitübung zur Introduction to Medieval English Studies:
Part II: Old English
Ort: Geb. 23.21 Raum: 01.68 Zeit: Fr. 09.30 - 11.00 Beginn: 15.04.2005**

Dr. Rainer Holtei M.A.
Proseminar: Old English Heroic Poetry
Fr. 11.00-13.00
Geb. 23.21 Raum U1.83   **Beginn: 15.04.2005**

The concept of heroic poetry has been at the centre of many scholars' interest in the interpretation of Old English literature, especially with regard to "Secular Heroic Poetry", "The Christian Saint as Hero" and even "Christ as Poetic Hero" (Greenfield).

According to this concept Anglo-Saxon literature was mainly concerned with the presentation of a certain heroic spirit and code of conduct:

> "This heroic spirit manifested itself most strongly in the desire for fame and glory ... the code of conduct stressed the reciprocal obligations of lord and thanes ... a mutuality that was the core of the *comitatus* relationship described as early as A.D. 98 by the Latin historian Tacitus in his *Germania* and demonstrated as late as the 10th century in the historic English poem *The Battle of Maldon*." (Greenfield, p.80).

Thus the 'received interpretation' of Old English literature regards *Beowulf* and *Maldon* as "the only Old English poems in which the heroic attitude is fully realized and described". (Stanley, p.23).

In opposition to this, some modern literary historians believe that these preconceptions bar the view for other ways of interpretation, which might help to understand the poems' authentic meaning against their contemporary background. This does in fact imply a notion of heroism which should be to a large extent detached from its traditional conceptions as presented in the 'received interpretation'. This also implies the idea that *Maldon* and *Beowulf* voice a purpose of immediate interest for their contemporary audiences or even a prospective intention.

In this seminar we will read and discuss *The Battle of Maldon*, *The Battle of Brunanburh* and extracts from *Beowulf* in the context of tenth-century Anglo-Saxon history and culture. We will reflect upon various critical approaches to Old English literature and discuss the concept of heroism and the related genre of heroic poetry in general terms.

The texts and other materials will be available on the university's BSCW-Server. In order to get invited to the Debate Poetry folders, you should send me your name and email address. (mail to: holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de)

Recommended reading:

Editions:
The Battle of Maldon, in: *Old and Middle English: An Anthology*, ed. by Elaine Treharne.
      Oxford 2000:141-155.
The Battle of Brunanburh, in: *Old and Middle English: An Anthology*, ed. by Elaine Treharne.
      Oxford 2000:28-33.
Beowulf, ed. by C. L. Wrenn, fully rev. by W. F. Bolton. London 1973.
or any other edition of these poems
Historical situation and general information:
J. Campbell, E. John and P. Wormald. *The Anglo-Saxons.* Oxford 1982.
The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature, ed. by Malcolm Godden and Michael
      Lapidge. Cambridge 1991.

Voraussetzungen:	Introduction to English Medieval Studies -
	Part I: General und Part II: Old English
Leistungsnachweis:	Mündliche Prüfung und Referat oder Hausarbeit
Veranstaltungstyp:	Wahlpflicht Magister/Prom.

Der Inhalt der Lehrveranstaltung ist geeignet für die Zwischenprüfung

M.A. (Magister Artium)

Dr. Rainer Holtei M.A.
Proseminar: Middle English Debate Poetry
Fr. 14.00-16.00
Geb. 23.21 Raum U1.83   **Beginn: 15.04.2005**

The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English explains the debate poem as a:

> ... medieval poetic tradition in which opposed parties contest one or more issues. The debate from is very old, dating back to Plato and the Old Testament. Boethius' *Consolatione Philosophiae* provided the most popular philosophical debate of the Middle Ages, and the form was also very common in secular Latin poetry. In the vernacular it was used for both serious and humorous ends. Often the opposed characters are animals, birds, inanimate objects or allegorical personifications, and the subject of the debate ranges from spiritual problems to personal relationships and petty squabbling covering a variety of topics. The form was used for political allegory and satire, as in *Wynnere and Wastoure*, for serious philosophical debate and for humour. *The Owl and the Nightingale* is a brilliant comic use of the genre. The debate may be inconclusive or it may be resolved by a third party. A related form is the parliament involving more than two participants. (*The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English*, ed. by Ian Ousby. Cambridge 1988:262-263)

Five Middle English debates employing talking birds as opponents have been preserved: *The Owl and the Nightingale* (c1200); *The Thrush and the Nightingale* (c1275); *The Cuckoo and the Nightingale* (late 14th century); and *The Clerk and the Nightingale* (second half of the 15th century); and *The Merle and the Nightingale* (late 15th or early 16th century) by William Dunbar. We will read and discuss the first two of these in detail. As a representative of the political debates we will interpret *Wynnere and Wastoure*.

We shall deal with generic problems, as well as with the characterization of the protagonists, the subjects of their debates and the historical situations defining the communicative environment of these poems.

The texts are easily available in standard anthologies, such as:

> *Old and Middle English: An Anthology*, ed. by Elaine Treharne. Oxford 2000. [*Owl and Nightingale* and *Wynnere and Wastoure*].
> *English Lyrics of the Thirteenth Century*, ed. by Carleton Brown. Oxford 1932:101-107. [*Thrush and Nightingale*]
> or any other edition of these well-known poems.

In addition, the texts and other materials will be available on the university's BSCW-Server. In order to get invited to the Debate Poetry folders, you should send me your name and email address. (mail to: holteir@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de)

A general introduction to the Middle English debate poems is:

> Francis L. Utley. "Dialogues, Debates, and Catechisms," in: *A Manual of the Writings in Middle English, 1050 - 1500*, ed. by Albert C. Hartung. New Haven, Conn., 1972: Vol.III, 716-724.

Voraussetzungen:	Introduction to English Medieval Studies - Part I: General und Part II: Middle English
Leistungsnachweis:	Mündliche Prüfung und Referat oder Hausarbeit
Veranstaltungstyp:	Wahlpflicht Magister/Prom.

Der Inhalt der Lehrveranstaltung ist geeignet für die Zwischenprüfung