Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Part II Paper 11

Germanic Philology
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ANGLO-SAXON, NORSE, AND CELTIC TRIPOS
PART II, PAPER 11

Dr R. W. Dance, Dr S. Watts, Dr M. R. Ammon

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the history and relationships of the Germanic languages, from their origins in Indo-European to the major early medieval textual evidence. By the end of the year, students should have acquired a detailed knowledge of the principal linguistic developments within the Germanic family as a whole, and become versed in the identification and discussion of features proper to the individual branches of Germanic, from amongst which they will have chosen particular languages in which to take a special interest.

Candidates for this paper from ASNC should have taken Part I Paper 5 (Old English) and/or Paper 6 (Old Norse). Candidates from MML/Linguistics will normally have taken or be taking one of the History of German papers (Ge7 at Part IB or Ge11 at Part II).

Organisation of teaching

Teaching for this course is provided through departmental lectures and classes/supervisions.
Core Teaching

The ‘core teaching’ consists of eight lectures and eight seminars (supervisions), which are a compulsory part of the course. The ‘Germanic Philology’ lectures, which take place in Michaelmas, aim to introduce students to the major issues of relevance to an understanding of the Germanic languages as a group, beginning with their origins in Indo-European and examining the theories as to their development into different ‘branches’ (North Germanic, West Germanic, etc.); attention will be paid to the principal phonological changes (e.g. ‘Grimm’s Law’), and important morphological and syntactic features (e.g. the origins of the ‘weak’ or dental preterite), amongst other topics. The eight ‘Germanic Philology’ seminars (supervisions), which run alongside the lectures in Michaelmas, act as a back-up to the subjects introduced in the lectures, and aim to provide a forum for continued discussion of the main issues covered therein, together with an opportunity for students to become more thoroughly acquainted with relevant methodology. Note that these seminars will run as supervisions, and will not appear on the lecture list (a time will be arranged in the first week of the course); note further that essays and other assignments will be set. (See the appended programmes for the lecture and supervisions series.)

Language Classes

As well as studying the Germanic languages as a whole, candidates for this paper must choose (at least) two languages to examine in more detail. These languages may be chosen from amongst Old English, Old Norse, Gothic and Old High German. Each language will be taught through eight classes, and these will take place either in the Michaelmas Term (in the case of Gothic, with Dr Watts) or in the Lent Term (in the case of Old English and Old Norse, with Dr Ammon) or in both (Old High German, depending on level; see below). Each series of classes will approach the analysis of its particular language first and foremost through the medium of SET TEXTS (see below), which will be examined principally from the points of view of orthography, phonology and morphology, with some account also being taken of lexis and syntax.
No **previous knowledge** will be assumed for Gothic, which will be taught from scratch. In the case of the other languages, a basic reading knowledge/familiarity with grammar will be expected. For Old English and Old Norse, candidates who have not previously taken the appropriate ASNC Part I Paper are requested to sit in on the first-year language classes for the language concerned (or both, should they wish) in at least the Michaelmas term.¹ Candidates taking Old High German will need to take four classes from paper Ge11 plus an additional six offered in Lent specially for this paper.

**Revision Classes**

There will be a short run of general revision classes in the Easter Term, in which candidates will have the opportunity to consolidate and review their work for the paper as a whole in preparation for the examination, and as part of which (and/or across the Easter vacation) they will be encouraged to write some further essays.

Students intending to offer the paper will be expected to spend time in private study each week, and during the vacations; essays and other exercises produced for the Michaelmas seminar series and the Easter revision classes will also involve students in planning, researching and presenting their work, and in discussing it with the group.

**Examinations**

The course is examined by a three-hour Part II paper, in which candidates will be required to answer Question 1 and two others.

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¹ First-year classes in Old English (ASNC Part I Paper 5) are conducted by Dr Dance (Fridays at 11, English Faculty room G-R.05, *starting in week 2*). Old Norse classes (Part I Paper 6) are run by Dr Judy Quinn (Mondays at 3, English Faculty room G-R.05). Please contact the lecturers concerned for further information.
In the compulsory Question 1, one passage each will be set for comment from the specified texts for Old English, Old Norse, Gothic and Old High German; candidates must answer on any two passages. In their answers to this question, candidates will be required to comment upon those forms in the passages that allow them to be assigned to particular languages (and approximate dates), and to discuss any other features of interest. Question 1 is worth 50% of the total paper (25% for each passage).

The remainder of the paper consists of a selection of essay questions (normally around twelve), of which candidates must choose two. These questions apply to the full range of the course, and will cover the origins and development of the Germanic family in general and its sub-groups, as well as the specifics of the histories of the individual languages. Each essay is worth 25% of the total paper.

In order to perform well, candidates will be required to demonstrate a solid understanding of the relevant sound changes and other features of importance in their commentary answers, and to discuss topics of related interest convincingly in the essays. In order to achieve a first-class mark, they will be expected to show fluent and lucid command of the relevant changes, with a strong grasp of the previous scholarly work that informs our understanding, and of possible alternative arguments; they will also be expected to have the ability to range widely across the Germanic languages upon which they have chosen to work, and to draw attention to apt examples from, and novel connections between features in, different languages and dialects.
Set Texts, 2012–13

A selection from:

Old English

• *The Parker Chronicle*, annals 851–890
• Wulfstan, Homily V: ‘Secundum Marcum’
• Riddles 23–25

Old Norse

• Ættr Auðunar Vestfirzka (a.k.a. ‘Auðun and the Bear’)
• Extract from *Grettis Saga*: Grettir’s Fight with Glámr
• Extract from *Fagrskinna*: the Battle of Stamford Bridge
  (texts no. XII, VIII and XVII in Gordon, *Introduction to Old Norse*)

Gothic

• Gospel according to St Mark, I–III
  (text from Wright, *Grammar of the Gothic Language*)

Old High German

• *Hildebrandslied*
• *Muspilli* and *Wessobrunner Gebet*
• Selected Charms
  (texts from Braune/Ebbinghaus, *Althochdeutsches Lesebuch*)
Germanic Philology

Dr R. W. Dance and Dr S. Watts

Scheme for Lectures, Michaelmas Term 2013

[Lectures take place on Fridays at 10.00, in room G-R.03 of the English building]

1. Introduction to the Germanic languages
2. Texts and histories
3. Consonants
4. Vowels
5. Morphology and Word-Formation
6. Syntax
7. Relationships I: dividing Germanic into sub-groups
8. Relationships II: language contact and Germanic philology
Germanic Philology

Dr R. W. Dance

Scheme for Seminars, Michaelmas Term 2013

[Time and venue to be arranged]

1. Introduction to the course
   [The paper: options, resources, exam; introduction to etymology]

2. The Germanic languages and phonological description I
   [Comparative exercises with Germanic words; introducing phonology]

3. The Germanic languages and phonological description II
   [The same continued]

4. Consonants
   [Presentations/essays on Germanic consonant topics]

5. Vowels
   [Exercises and discussion relating to Germanic vowel topics]

6. Morphology and Word-Formation
   [Presentations/essays on Germanic morphology and word-formation topics]

7. ‘Bonus’ topic week
   [An extra language topic to be decided upon: e.g. Old Saxon, early Runic language, Old Frisian. Get thinking!]

8. Language Grouping
   [Presentations/essays on Germanic language grouping]
General Reading List

More detailed reading lists on specific topics will be issued at lectures and seminars. Books particularly suitable as introductions are marked with a *.

Introductory textbook on Germanic Philology

[The best place to start for details of the individual Gmc languages: strongly recommended.]

Some Guides to Historical Linguistics


T. Bynon, *Historical Linguistics* (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics; Cambridge, 1983)


[a clear and up-to-date guide to basic linguistic terms and processes]


**Phonetics and phonology: introductory reading**


and see also the website of the International Phonetic Association for full lists of standard symbols and other useful things: <http://www.langsci.ucl.ac.uk/ipa/>

**The Indo-European Background**


K. Brugmann, *Kurze vergleichende Grammatik der indogermanischen Sprachen* (Strassburg, 1904)


N. E. Collinge, *The Laws of Indo-European* (Current Issues in Linguistic Theory 35; Amsterdam, 1985)


S. E. Mann, *An Indo-European Comparative Dictionary* (Hamburg, 1984-7)


*and beyond …?*


**The Germanic Languages**

*General*


D. H. Green, *Language and History in the Early Germanic World* (Cambridge, 1998) [Old-fashioned wordy approach, but plenty of interest]


C. J. Hutterer, *Die germanischen Sprachen* (Budapest, 1975)


[extremely useful digest of some difficult arguments]


[occasionally theory-heavy presentation, but handy discussions of all major issues, and contains very useful appendix detailing PGmc inflexions]

**History**

E. Schwarz, *Germanische Stammeskunde* (Germanische Bibliothek 5; Heidelberg, 1956)


* and see also

**Proto-Germanic**


F. van Coetsem and H. L. Kufner, eds., *Toward a Grammar of Proto-Germanic* (Tübingen, 1972)
[useful collective attempt to cover major ground; detailed and scholarly]


[effectively an etymological dictionary in reverse; very handy for checking PGmc forms]

[old, and research has in many details since moved on, but still a useful overview]

[the most exhaustive recent monograph]


**Old English**


[old-fashioned, but still very reliable and worth becoming familiar with; still regarded by many as the standard grammar of OE]


[handy introductory accounts]

[an excellent and full set of chapters on context, phonology, morphology, syntax, lexis, etc. – highly recommended]

[the major recent work on the sounds of OE – full and reliable]

[the long-awaited sequel to the foregoing]

[sometimes controversial, but very clear and helpful on historical development]

[pp. 144-57 have a handy summary of the major sound changes]
Reference

An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, based on the manuscript collections of the late Joseph Bosworth, edited and enlarged by T. N. Toller (London, 1898) and its Supplement (1921, 1973)


F. Holthausen, Altenenglisches etymologisches Wörterbuch (Heidelberg, third edition 1974) [handy for looking up etymologies]


• for etymological discussion see the on-line OED: <http://www.oed.com/>
• for OE language resources on the web, see also the ASNC links page at: <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/resources/research/old-english.htm>

Old Norse

O. Bandle (et al), eds., The Nordic Languages: an International Handbook of the History of the North Germanic Languages I (Berlin and New York, 2002) [massive, up-to-date and very thorough]

M. Barnes, ‘How “Common” was Common Scandinavian?’, NOWELE 31-32 (1997), 29-42


E. Haugen, The Scandinavian Languages: An Introduction to their History (London, 1976)

A. Heusler, *Altisländisches Elementarbuch* (Sammlung germanischer Elementar- und Handbücher, I:3; 2nd ed.; Heidelberg, 1921)


[full and useful, though occasionally idiosyncratic]

A. Noreen, *Abriss der altnordischen Grammatik* (Halle, 1896)

A. Noreen, *Altnordische Grammatik II: altschwedische Grammatik, mit Einschluss des Aligutnischen* (Halle, 1904)

The language of the early runic inscriptions


W. Krause, *Die Sprache der urnordischen Runeninschriften* (Germanische Bibliothek; Heidelberg, 1971)


Reference

*An Icelandic-English Dictionary*, instigated by R. Cleasby, subsequently revised, enlarged and completed by G. Vigfusson. 2nd ed., with a supplement by Sir W. A. Craigie, containing many additional words and references (Oxford, 1957)

[ PDFs downloadable from](http://ling.upenn.edu/~kurisuto/germanic/oi_cleasbyvigfusson_about.html#images]

[complete only as far as A-Em, but skeleton entries inc. full quotation slips are available for the whole dictionary online]


J. Fritzner, *Ordbog over det gamle norske sprog* (3 vols.; Kristiania, 1867); *Retteber og Tillegg*, ed. F. Hodnebø (Oslo, Bergen, Tromsø, 1972)

[now fully searchable on the web at
<http://www.edd.uio.no/perl/search/search.cgi?appid=86&tabid=1275>]


[a very handy resource for looking up etymologies of ON words]

Ásgeir Blöndal Magnússon, *Íslensk Orðsfjábók* (Reykjavík, 1989)

[another, more recent Icelandic etymological dictionary (in Icelandic)]


• for ON language resources on the web, see the ASNC links page at:
<http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/resources/research/old-norse.htm>

**Gothic**


F. Heidermanns (Sammlung kurzer Grammatiken germanischer Dialekte, A:1; Tübingen, 2004)


• The text of the Gothic Bible is available online at Project Wulfila:
<http://www.wulfila.be/>
• A collection of Gothic links with commentary (in German):<http://www.reimar.de/gotisch.html>

• The Perseus project has a searchable Greek New testament text on it:<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>

Reference


F. Holthausen, Gotisches etymologisches Wörterbuch: Mit Einschluß der Eigennamen und der gotischen Lehnwörter im Romanischen (Heidelberg 1934)


Old High German

C. C. Barber, An Old High German Reader (Oxford, 1951)


W. Braune, Althochdeutsche Grammatik I, 15th ed. rev. I. Reiffenstein (Sammlung kurzer Grammatiken germanischer Dialekte, A:5; Tübingen, 2004) [earlier editions of this included the syntax section now available separately as Ahd. Grammatik II, see Schrodt below]

W. Braune, Althochdeutsches Lesebuch (17th ed.; Tübingen, 1994)

G. Davis and K. A. Bernhardt, Syntax of West Germanic: the Syntax of Old English and Old High German (Göppingen, 2002)

J. Ellis, An Elementary Old High German Grammar, Descriptive and Comparative (Oxford, 1953)


E. Meineke and J. Schwerdt, Einführung in das Althochdeutsche (Paderborn, etc., 2001)

H. Penzl, Geschichtliche deutsche Lautlehre (Munich, 1969)

H. Penzl, Lautsystem und Lautwandel in den althochdeutschen Dialekten (Munich, 1970)

R. Schrodt, Althochdeutsche Grammatik II (Syntax) (Tübingen 2004)


J. Wright, *An Old High German Primer* (Oxford, 1906)

- A number of Old High German texts are online at
  <http://www.hs-augsburg.de/~harsch/germanica/Chronologie/d_chrono.html>
  and at
  <http://texte.mediaevum.de/ahd.htm>
  and at
  <http://titus.uni-frankfurt.de/indexe.htm>

**Reference**


  <http://homepage.uibk.ac.at/~c30310/ahdwbhin.html>


E. Seebold, *Chronologisches Wörterbuch des deutschen Wortschatzes* (2 vols; Berlin, 2001–8) [the published volumes cover the eighth and ninth centuries]

**Old Saxon**


* J. E. Cathey, *Old Saxon* (Languages of the World/Materials 252; Munich, 2000)


  [edits both OE and OS *Genesis* poems, and contains a useful summary of the language of the OS, at pp. 425-36]

F. Holthausen, *Altsächsisches Elementarbuch* (Sammlung germanischer Elementarbücher, I:5; 2nd ed.; Heidelberg, 1921)


- The text of the OS *Heliand* is available online at <http://www.wulfila.be/lib/sievers/1878/>

Reference

S. Berr, *An Etymological Glossary to the Old Saxon Heliand* (Berne, 1971)


**Old Frisian**


Reference
