

GER.671. GOTHIC OLD HIGH GERMAN AND MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

Professor: Rose-Marie G. Oster

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Office hours: Tu, Th. 10:00-10:45; Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 and by appt.

The course is to a large extent a skills course, intended to make the students familiar with texts from the Old High- and Middle High German periods and with the linguistic changes that took place during these times; however the texts will also be discussed within the context of the cultural, social and political forces that influenced the German language during the Middle Ages

Prerequisites:

Knowledge of Modern German and preferably some background in linguistic methods in dealing with older texts.

Language of instruction:

English

Textbooks: Althochdeutsches Lesebuch, edited by W. Braune and E. Ebbinghaus. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1979 (BE). Mittelhochdeutsches Lesebuch, edited by A. Bachmann. Zürich, 1976 (Ba). W. Braune/E. Ebbinghaus. Abriss der althochdeutschen Grammatik. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1977

SYLLABUS

Week of	Sept. 2	Introduction: The Indo-Europeans (culture, the homeland question) Proto-Indo-European
“	” 9	The Germanic Languages: Characteristics of Proto-Germanic Phonology, morphology, lexicon
“	” 16:	The Germanic Languages: Division, migration and characteristics of the different languages Gothic (text will be furnished)
“	” 23	Pre-Old High German; beginning of Old High German. Missions, monasteries Read BE: XIII <i>Weissenburger Katechismus</i> . XVI <i>Das fränkische Taufgelöbniß</i>
“	“ 30:	Old-High German Read BE: XX . 4 <i>Tatian</i> and XXII, 2 <i>Lorscher Beichte</i>
“	Oct. 7	Read. BE: XXVIII <i>Das Hildebrandslied</i>

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Week of	Oct. 14:	Read BE: XXIX <i>Das Wessobrunner Gebet</i> and XXX <i>Muspilli</i>	
“	” 21:	.Read BE: XXXI <i>Segensformeln</i>	
“	“ 28:	Read BE: XXXII <i>Otfried</i>	
“	“ Nov. 4 :	Read BE: XXXV 2919- 2930 (Excerpts from <i>The Heliand</i>))	
”	“ 11:	Linguistic developments from OHG to MHG Read Ba: Epik I. <i>Das Nibelungenlied. Kriemhildens Traum</i>	
“	” 25:	Read Ba: Epik XI <i>Meier Helmbrecht</i> . Epik IV <i>Reinhart Fuchs</i>	
Week of	Dec. 2:	.Read Ba: Lyrik VII <i>Walther 15</i> . Dramatik <i>Osterspiel</i>	
“	“ 9;	Review	

Active student participation is expected in this course. In addition to the participation in class discussions, each student will give one report during the semester, lead the group discussion at one session on the text in question and write one research paper either in German or English (if the student’s native language is German the paper should be in English and for native English speakers the paper should be in German). The paper should conform either to the Linguistic Society of America or the MLA Style Sheet. In addition, there will be one final examination

