

COURSE DETAIL

HEROES AND QUEENS, MONSTERS AND EXILES: GENDER ROLES IN MEDIEVAL ENGLISH POETIC TEXTS

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin, Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

English

UCEAP Course Number

109

UCEAP Course Suffix

C

UCEAP Official Title

HEROES AND QUEENS, MONSTERS AND EXILES: GENDER ROLES IN MEDIEVAL ENGLISH POETIC TEXTS

UCEAP Transcript Title

MEDIEVAL LIT: GENDR

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Old English was the language spoken and preserved in written texts up to the mid-eleventh century CE in the regions of the British Isles. It developed from the languages spoken by Germanic peoples coming to Britain from the continental mainland and presents the earliest precursor of Modern English. This course focuses on Old English texts written in verse, exploring their themes, styles, meanings, and the challenges of dealing with a language surviving only in a small number of often unique and damaged manuscripts. Texts read include heroic poetry, such as *Beowulf*, elegies, as well as Old English versions of Biblical texts. The focus of the readings is on the question of how such texts portray concepts of gender, how they construct but also deconstruct gender roles, and how they relate to gender theory in the 21st century. Students are introduced to the grammar and pronunciation of Old English and use their knowledge to work with the original texts alongside Modern English translations.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

17329

Host Institution Course Title

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MEDIEVAL ENGLISH POETIC TEXTS

Host Institution Campus

PHILOSOPHIE UND GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

Host Institution Department

Englische Philologie

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