

Exam Specifications

Examination Environment

This exam will take place online on ILIAS, which is accessed through Stud.IP under the tab Lernmodule/Learning modules. A mock exam is there now; a final exam will be available there in due time, and it will become clickable at the appropriate time slot, i.e.

- Tuesday 21 July at 10:00 for the Tuesday section; and
- Thursday 23 July at 12:00 for the Thursday section.

You will only have access to the section you joined on Stud.IP.

Once you start the exam, you have 120 minutes to complete it. If you start the exam a few minutes late, you will still have 120 minutes, but there will be a hard cutoff 140 minutes after the official start.

Please try out the mock exam and familiarize yourself with the environment early on. If you spot any issues, inform your instructor. During the exam, you may not be in contact with anyone or use external aids.

The lecture exam will offer you a choice of questions to answer: you will be asked to answer four out of sixteen questions. Because ILIAS does not have a pool option along these lines, you will be confronted with all sixteen questions in turn. Please browse these questions before making your selection, but **answer no more than four lecture questions**. The question titles in the navigation pane on the left will have keywords indicating the subject of each question to facilitate navigation.

In addition to a physical or virtual keyboard, you may need access to the special characters *þ*, *æ*, and *ð* at least for the close commentary. You should be able to copy and paste these out of the excerpt given, but you may want to prepare another way of inputting these characters as well. If you cannot input them using your keyboard, you could open a browser window to <http://langeslag.uni-goettingen.de/specialchars.html>. If all else fails, simply type *ae* and *th* (not *p* or *o*).

Structure

1. Lecture exam (25% in B.EP.204 / 33% in M.EP.02c — count 30 minutes)
2. Seminar exam (75% in B.EP.204 / 67% in M.EP.02c — count 90 minutes)
 - (a) Commentary on a seen passage of Old English prose or verse (30% of seminar exam)
 - (b) Translation of an unseen passage of Old English prose (40% of seminar exam)
 - (c) Discussion of a seen Middle English text (30% of seminar exam)

Specification

Lecture Exam

Dr Wolf will provide the questions relating to the lecture course based on the content of and the readings set for the lecture course. There will be sixteen questions, of which you choose exactly four. Answers can generally be brief.

Close Commentary

This assignment will quote a short passage (8–12 lines of prose or verse, with no or minimal glosses) from either the preface to the Old English *Pastoral Care* or from *Dream of the Rood*. If the passage was not discussed in class, at least you will receive a model translation well ahead of the exam. You will be asked to comment on all aspects of the passage: form (rhythm and alliteration; diction), content/argument, and cultural context. This part is usually left wide open: you will be given a passage and are expected to comment on it, and on the wider text from which it has been excerpted, without further instruction. To prepare for this assignment, take the feedback on your midterm commentary to heart; study your translations and the instructor's model translations of these texts; reread your class notes on content, form, and themes along with the editors' introductions and notes to these texts in the textbook; but also read the essays by Wormald (on literacy), and Ó Carragáin and North (on *The Dream of the Rood* and its Northumbrian culture) provided on StudIP. Finally, **closely study the example commentary on the Close Commentary handout!** You can anticipate much of what should be in your commentary ahead of time, since we cover only so much content.

Translation of an Unseen Passage

This will be a short excerpt of Old English prose, thoroughly but not exhaustively glossed. Words that we have often encountered may not be glossed, and the same is true for words whose senses are transparent from their Modern English reflexes. To prepare for this, learn your paradigms, but also practise reading familiar and new prose texts in the textbook. Above all, it will help to be able to recognize verbs, subjects, objects, tense, number, and case. A sample passage is included on p. 3 below, and another example may be found in the mock exam on ILIAS (Stud.IP → Lernmodule).

Discussion

This is a short essay question which you should answer in two to four brief paragraphs. It will concern the Middle English text we have read (i.e. *The Franklin's Tale*) and explore one particular issue the author raises, or a cultural phenomenon he explores. For instance, the poem ends with the question which character in the tale is "the most free"; that could be a natural essay question to ask here.

Sample Translation Assignment

Provide a single translation into Present-Day English, without footnotes or parenthetical material. If you find any ambiguities, translate just one acceptable sense.

Pharaoh's Death

Ðā Pharao cōm tō ðære sǣ, 7 eal his here, ðā fōr hē on þone ylcan weg æfter Israhēla folce on dægrēd mid eallum his folce 7 mid eallum his wǣpnum. Ðā cwæð Drihten tō Moyse: “Aðene ðīne hand ofer ðā sǣ 7 ofer Faraon 7 ofer ealne his here.” 7 hē āhefde up his hand, 7 sēo sǣ slōh tōgædere 7 āhwylfde Pharaones cratu, 7 ādrencte hine sylfne 7 eal his folc.

Glossary

ādrenčan (1) drown	cuman (IV: <i>cōm, cōmon, cumen</i>) come	here (1 <i>n</i>) army
āhebban (1: <i>ābefide</i>) raise up	cweþan (V: <i>cwæþ, cwædon, cweden</i>) say, speak	ilca (<i>pron</i>) same
āhwylfan (1) engulf	dægrēd (1 <i>n</i>) daybreak	Moyses (<i>m proper</i>) Moses
āþenian (2) stretch out	Drihten (1 <i>m</i>) the Lord	sǣ (1 <i>m/2f</i>) sea
cræt (1 <i>n</i>) chariot	faran (VI: <i>fōr, fōron, faren</i>) travel	slēan (VI: <i>slōh, slōgon, slagen</i>) strike
		wǣpen (1 <i>n</i>) weapon