

ENGLISH – NEXT STEPS FOR UNIVERSITY

Suggested Reading

Top tip: visit university websites and access their specific Reading Lists.

As many top universities insist on teaching Old English here are some suggestions:

Mark Atherton, *Complete Old English: Teach Yourself* (London: Hachette, 2012)

Peter Baker, *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd edn (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)

John Blair, *The Anglo-Saxon Age: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Hugh Magennis, *The Cambridge Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Elaine Treharne, ed. *Old and Middle English c.890-c.1400: An Anthology*, 3rd edn (Oxford: Blackwell 2010).

Roy Liuzza, *Beowulf: A New Translation*, 2nd edn (Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview, 2012). The second edition is recommended over the first as it has the Old English on the facing page.

S. A. J. Bradley, *Anglo-Saxon Poetry: An Anthology of Old English Poems in Prose Translation* (London: Dent, 1991) — useful for getting a sense of the corpus, but lacks the Old English text, so not ideal for essay work.

Michael Swanton, ed. *Anglo-Saxon Prose* (London: Everyman, 1993).

Victorian Literature is often a popular choice:

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

‘Signs of the Times’. [*Past and Present*.]

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

Aurora Leigh and Other Poems, ed. Bolton and Holloway (Penguin).

Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)

The best edition is the generous selected edition by Christopher Ricks (paperback; Longman, 1989).

‘Ulysses’; ‘Morte d’Arthur’; ‘Break, break, break’; ‘Now sleeps the crimson petal’, ‘Tears, Idle Tears’; *In Memoriam*; *Maud*.

Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865)

Mary Barton, North and South [*Ruth, Wives and Daughters*]

Robert Browning (1812-1889)

Also works by the Brontes, Dickens, John Ruskin, George Eliot, Arthur Hugh Clough, Christina Rossetti, Matthew Arnold, Lewis Carroll...

‘Modern’ writers:

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

‘The Darkling Thrush’; ‘The Convergence of the Twain’; ‘The Going’; ‘The Voice’; ‘Beeny Cliff’; ‘At Castle Boterel’; ‘Afterwards’.

W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

E.M. Forster (1879-1970)

Howards End. [*A Passage to India*.]

James Joyce (1882-1941)

Dubliners; *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. [*Ulysses*.]

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

To the Lighthouse; Mrs Dalloway. [The Waves; The Voyage Out.]

T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Here are the top 10 suggested reads for studying English at university:

1. Beowulf (c.700-1000) Anonymous
2. The Canterbury Tales (c.1387-1400) - Geoffrey Chaucer
3. A Midsummer Night's Dream (1595-6) - William Shakespeare
4. Emma (1815) Jane Austen
5. Mary Barton (1848) Elizabeth Gaskell
6. A Doll's House (1879) Henrik Ibsen
7. Selected Poems (c. 1917-18) - Wilfred Owen
8. The Bell Jar (1963) Sylvia Plath
9. The World's Wife (1999) Carol Ann Duffy
10. The Kite Runner (2003) Khalid Hosseini

Resources and websites

BBC Radio 4 'In Our time'

Digital Theatre

The Victorian Web

J-Store

Massolit

So you think you're a Literary Critic? 19 Books for Understanding Literature - Richard Davies on Abe Books.com

The 10 Best Literary Theory and Criticism Books of 2020 - Esther Lombardi on Thought.co.com