

Literatura Inglesa I: Ejes de la Literatura Inglesa Medieval y Renacentista

Centro Asociado UNED La Laguna

Curso 2021-2022

Grado en Estudios Ingleses

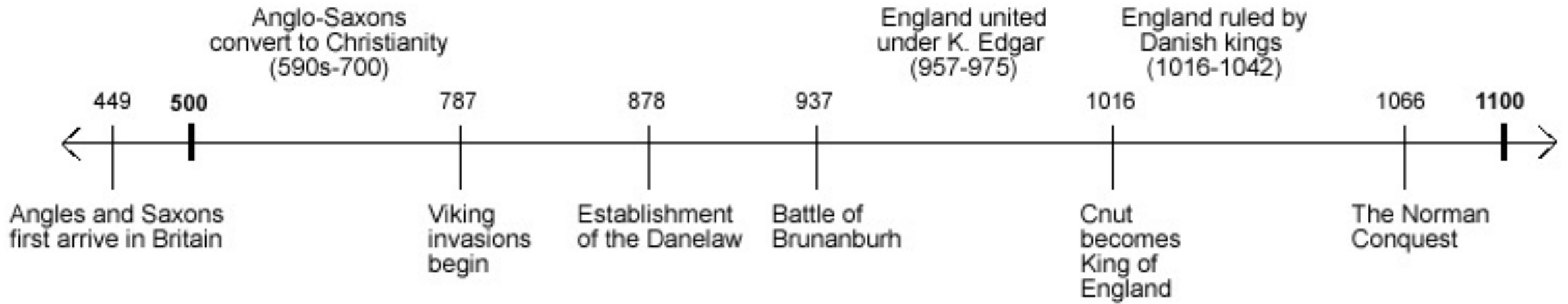
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TENERIFE

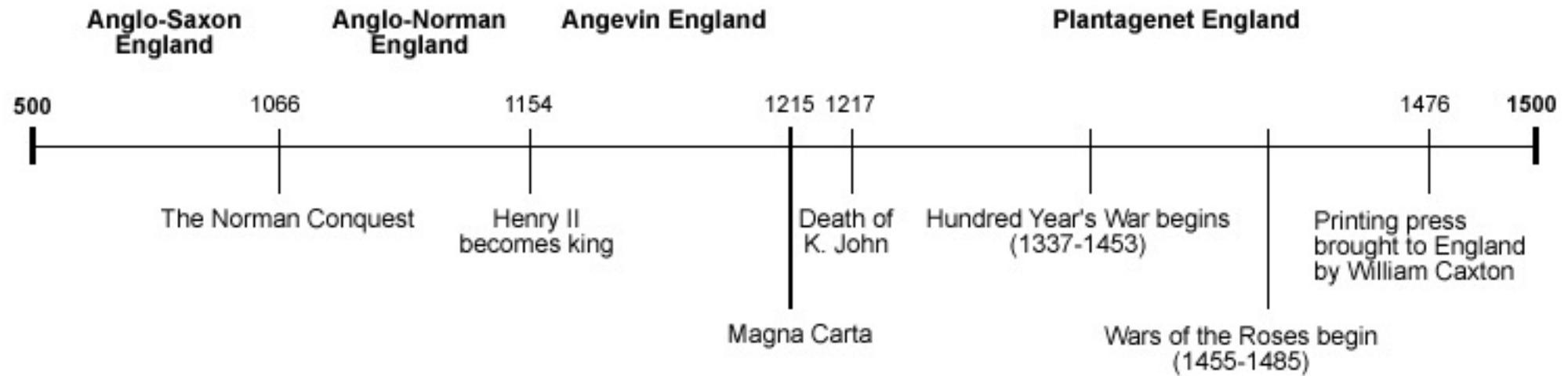
THE COURSE

- Annual course. (1. Medieval – 2. Renaissance)
- 2 PECs (Pruebas de Evaluación Continua)
 - December 17th, 2021
 - May 4th, 2022
- Sessions: practical, based on texts and resolution of doubts and problems.
- It is highly recommended to **read the texts** beforehand.
- HIGHLIGHTED SECTIONS IN "Orientaciones para el estudio", "Guía de estudio" and "Antología de textos"

THE MIDDLE AGES

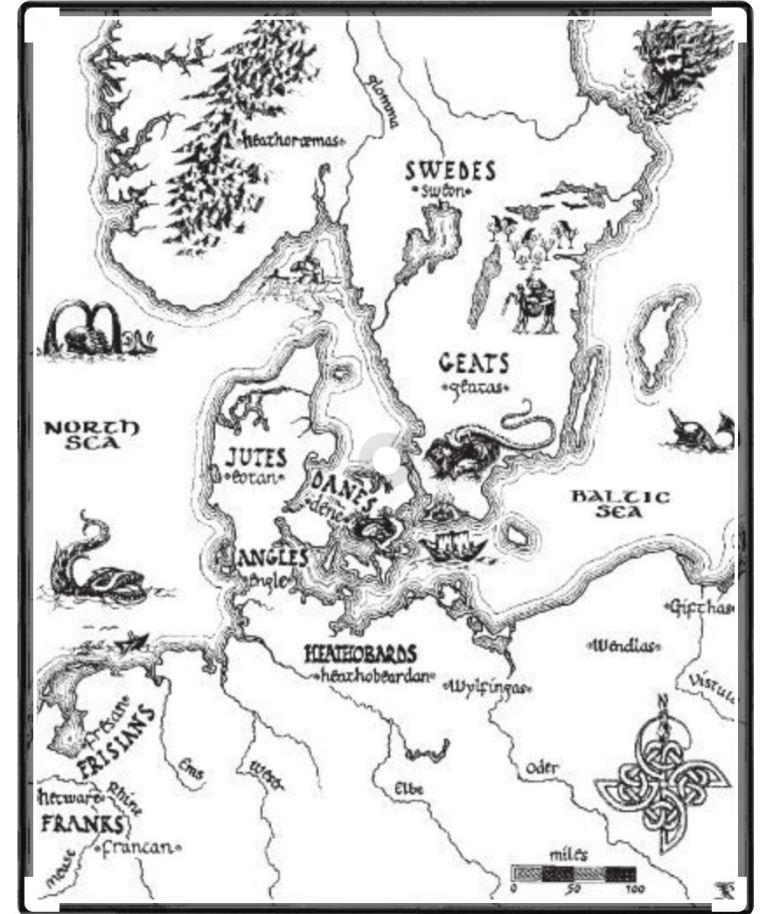


THE MIDDLE AGES



BEOWULF (contextualization)

- Cotton Vitellius Ms. – Sir Robert Cotton (1571-1631), currently preserved in the British Library.
 - Oral transmission (scop) – manuscript from late 10th- early 11th century.
- Geographical setting: Heorot, in the Isle of Seland, a border between the Geats and the Danes.
- Chronological setting: circa 450 AD (composed between the 7th and the 10th century).
- Seamus Heaney’s renowned translation.
- Structure: [fight - victory – celebration, from b to d]
 - a. Introduction: genealogy of the house of Heorot (Shield Sheafson, Beow, Halfdane, Hrothgar...)
 - b. Grendel’s attack.
 - c. Beowulf arrives – fight with Grendel.
 - d. Grendel’s mother.
 - e. Beowulf, king of the Geats – fight with the dragon and death.



BEOWULF

So times were pleasant for the people there
Until finally one, a fiend out of hell,
Began to work his evil in the world.

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Grendel was the name of this grim demon
Haunting the marches, marauding¹ round the heath²
And the desolate fens; he had dwelt for a time
In misery among the banished monsters,
Cain's clan, whom the **C**reator had outlawed
And condemned as outcasts. For the killing of Abel
The **E**ternal Lord had exacted a price:

Cain got no good from committing that murder
Because the Almighty made him anatema
And out of the curse of this exile there sprang
Ogres and elves and evil phantoms
And the giants too who strove³ with God
Time and again until He gave them their reward.

110

1. Contextualization.
2. Summary of the themes.
3. Features of the genre
4. Additional features
5. Conclusions

1. To destroy. – 2. deserted field. – 3. to struggle/fight

BEOWULF

The man **w**hose name **w**as known for courage,
The Geat leader, resolute in his helmet,
An**w**ered in return: “**W**e are retainers
From Hygelac’s **b**and. **B**eowulf’s my name.
If your lord and **m**aster, the **m**ost renowned
Son of **H**alfdane, will **h**ear me out
And **g**raciously allow me to **g**reet him in person,
I am **r**eady and willing to **r**eport my errand.”

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1. Contextualization.
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5. Conclusions

Therefore, to **heighten Hygelac's** fame
And gladden **his heart**, I **hereby** renounce
Sword and the **shelter** of the broad **shield**,
The **heavy war-board***: **hand-to-hand**
Is how it will be, a **life-and-death**
Fight with the **fiend**. Whichever one death **fells**
Must deem it a **just judgment** by God.
If Grendel **wins**, it **will** be a gruesome day;
He will **glut*** himself on the **Geats** in the war-hall,
Swoop* without **fear** on that **flower** of manhood
As on others before. Then my face won't be there
To be **covered** in death: he will **carry** me away
As he **goes** to **ground**, **gorged*** and bloodied;
He will **run gloating*** with my **raw** corpse
And feed on it alone, in a cruel frenzy,
Fouling his moor-**nest**. **No need** then
To **lament** for **long** or **lay** out my body:
If the battle takes me, send back
This breast-**webbing*** that **Weland** fashioned
And Hrethel gave me, to Lord Hygelac.
Fate goes ever as **fate** must.”

board shield

feed with relish
to attack suddenly and swiftly

full to bursting
mocking in triumph

type of breast armour

1. Contextualization.
2. Summary of the themes.
3. Features of the genre
4. Additional features
5. Conclusions

Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, spoke:

“Wise sir, do not grieve. It is always better
To avenge dear ones than to indulge in mourning.
For every one of us, living in this world
Means waiting for our end. Let whoever can
Win glory before death. When a warrior is gone,
That will be his best and only bulwark.
So arise, my lord, and let us immediately
Set forth on the trail of this troll-dam*.
I guarantee you: she will not get away,
Not to dens underground nor upland groves
Nor the ocean floor. She’ll have nowhere to flee to.
Endure your trouble today. Bear up
And be the man I expect you to be.”

1. Contextualization.
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1390

Female troll

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TENERIFE

The wide kingdom
Reverted to Beowulf. He ruled it well
For fifty winters, grew old and wise
As warden of the land
Until one began
To dominate the dark, a dragon on the prowl*
From the steep vaults of the stone-roofed barrow
Where he guarded a hoard; there was a hidden passage
Unknown to men, but someone managed
To enter by it and interfere
With the heathen trove*. He had handled and removed
A gem-studded goblet; it gained him nothing,
Though with a thief's wiles he had outwitted
The sleeping dragon; that drove him into a rage,
As the people of that country would soon discover.

1. Contextualization.
2. Summary of the themes.
3. Features of the genre
4. Additional features
5. Conclusions

2210

moving around furtively

treasure

THE WANDERER

(Burton Raffel's translation)

Oft to the wanderer, weary of exile,
Cometh God's pity, compassionate love,
Though woefully toiling on wintry seas
With churning oar in the icy wave,
Homeless and helpless he fled from fate.

Thematic deviations: life of a scop
BE CAREFUL with translations

THE WANDERER

(Michael Alexander's translation)

'Where is that horse now? Where are those men? Where is the hoard-sharer?
Where is the house of the feast? Where is the hall's uproar?
Alas, bright cup! Alas, burnished fighter!
Alas, proud prince! How that time has passed,
Dark under night's helm, as though it never had been!
There stands in the stead of staunch thanes
A towering wall wrought with worm-shapes;
The earls are off-taken by the ash-spear's point,
- That thirsty weapon. Their Weird is glorious.

1. Contextualization.
2. Summary of the themes.
3. Features of the genre
4. Additional features
5. Conclusions

100

THE WIFE'S LAMENT

(Eavan Boland's translation)

My lost lord, my lover-felon—
Let him be cast from his land alone
By an icy cliff in a cold storm.
Let his own mind bedevil him
With weariness as the water flows
Far below his makeshift house.
Let my weary friend beside the sea Suffer his cruel anxiety
Let him be reminded of this place
Of another dwelling: all its grace,
And all the affliction, all the cost
Of longing for a love that's lost.

THE WIFE'S LAMENT

(Michael Alexander's translation)

Where my friend is stranded
frost crusts the cracked cliff-face
grey waves grind the shingle.
The mind cannot bear in such a bleak place
very much grief.

He remembers too often
less grim surroundings. Sorrow follows
this too long wait for one who is estranged.