# Treasures of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

<table>
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<th>Start date</th>
<th>End date</th>
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<td>18 January 2019</td>
<td>20 January 2019</td>
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**Venue**

Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge  

**Tutor**

Professor Edward James  

**Course code**

1819NRX013  

**Director of Academic Centres**

Sarah Ormrod  

**For further information on this course, please contact**

Head of Academic Centre Administration, Zara Kuckelhaus  
zara.kuckelhaus@ice.cam.ac.uk, 01223 746204  

**To book**

See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262  

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**Tutor biography**

Edward James is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin. He has held Chairs of Medieval History at both Reading and UCD; before that he was in the Department of History at the University of York, where he directed the Centre for Medieval Studies between 1990 and 1995. He has held research professorships at Rutgers and Sydney.  

His DPhil from Oxford was in early medieval archaeology, and he has always emphasised the importance of archaeology for understanding the history of this period, and vice versa. He has published numerous articles on the archaeology and history of early medieval Europe, focussing on France. His first book was *The Merovingian Archaeology of South-West Gaul* (1977), which was followed by an edited book on Visigothic Spain (1980), *The Origins of France* (1982), *The Franks* (1988), *Britain in the First Millennium* (2000) and *Europe’s Barbarians* (2009). His translation of Gregory of Tours’ *Life of the Fathers* was the first book to appear in Liverpool University Press’s Texts in Translation series (1985); he is currently working on a book on Gregory of Tours.  

Course programme

Friday
Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner
20:30 – 22:00 The Moore Bede (9) and the Laws of Æthelberht (10)
22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday
07:30 Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30 The Charters of Hlothhere (19), Æthelbald (38) and Offa (43)
10:30 Coffee
11:00 – 12:30 The Lindisfarne Gospels (30)
13:00 Lunch
14:00 – 16:00 Free
16:00 Tea
16:30 – 18:00 The Codex Amiatinus (34)
18:00 – 18:30 Free
18:30 Dinner
20:00 – 21:30 The Beowulf Manuscript (86), the Vercelli Book (87), the Junius Manuscript (89) and the Exeter Book (90)
21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday
07:30 Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30 Bald’s Leechbook (108)
10:30 Coffee
11:00 – 12:30 The Great Domesday Book (161)
12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch
**Course syllabus**

**Aims:**
This course explores in depth some of the objects currently displayed in the British Library’s exhibition “Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War”, which is open from October 2018 to 19 February 2019: the numbers in the schedule above are the exhibition’s catalogue numbers. The aim is to enhance the experience of visiting the exhibition, whether before or after the course. The thirteen objects have been chosen to illustrate as many aspects of Anglo-Saxon life and achievement as possible; a secondary aim, therefore, is to offer an introduction to Anglo-Saxon society and culture—an alternative title could be “A History of the Anglo-Saxons in Thirteen Objects”.

**Content:**
All the sessions will look closely at the materiality of the objects in question. The Moore Bede is just one of many medieval copies of Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History*, but it is one of the closest in time to Bede’s actual life; this is contrasted with a book which contains the earliest known legislation from an Anglo-Saxon king, although it comes from six centuries later. A comparison of three royal charters is used to talk about the significance of charters to the historian. The Lindisfarne Gospels and the Codex Amiatinus, two of the most amazing books ever produced in Britain, come from a few miles from each other at roughly the same time, and yet seem worlds apart culturally. The Codex Amiatinus left England in 715/6, and has come back for the first time for this exhibition; the four manuscripts which contain almost all Old English poetry have come together for the first time. Finally, we shall look at an example of an English medical book, and a book that not only records the effects of the Conquest, but is our best record of the state of Anglo-Saxon England before its final destruction by the Normans.

**Presentation of the course:**
Each session will begin with an illustrated lecture talking about the object in question, and will then put forward points for discussion. There will be a handout with translations of the texts, or extracts from them, where appropriate.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Better understand the analysis and interpretation of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts
- Better appreciate a visit or revisit to the British Library exhibition “Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War”.
- Acquire a better understanding of Anglo-Saxon history and culture
Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Breay, Claire and Joanna Story, eds.</td>
<td>Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Word, Art, War.</td>
<td>British Library, 2018</td>
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Sources:
- Fulk, Robert D. | The Beowulf Manuscript | Harvard UP, 2010 |
- Heaney, Seamus | Beowulf | Norton, 2002 |

Studies:
- Brown, Michelle | The Lindisfarne Gospels | British Library, 2003 |
- Cameron, Malcolm L. | Anglo-Saxon Medicine | CUP, 1993 |
- DiGregorio, Scott, ed. | The Cambridge Companion to Bede | CUP, 2010 |
- Fleming, Robin | Britain After Rome: The Fall and Rise, 400-1070 | Penguin, 2011 |
- Gameson, Richard | From Holy Island to Durham: the Contexts and Meanings of the Lindisfarne Gospels | Third Millennium, 2013 |
- Gameson, Richard | Codex Amiatinus: Making and Meaning | Jarrow Lecture, 2017 |
- Hallam, Elizabeth | Domesday Book through Nine Centuries | Thames & Hudson, 1986 |
- James, Edward | Britain in the First Millennium | Edward Arnold, 2001 |
- Roffe, David | Domesday: The Inquest and the Book | Oxford UP, 2000 |
- Webster, Leslie | Anglo-Saxon Art: A New History | British Museum, 2012 |
- Zacher, Samantha | Rewriting the Old Testament in Anglo-Saxon Verse | Bloomsbury, 2014 |

Note: Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.