

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo**  
**Department of English**  
**ENGL 305B 001: The Age of Beowulf**  
**Winter 2022**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30-3:50pm**  
**SJI 3016 when in person**  
**Microsoft Teams when remote**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Tristanne Connolly

Office: Sweeney Hall 2203

Office phone: 519-884-8111 ext. 28244

Office hours:

- When in person: drop-in office hour 2:30-3:20pm Tuesdays and in-person or online meetings by appointment
- When remote: online meetings by appointment

Email: [tristanne.connolly@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tristanne.connolly@uwaterloo.ca)

Essay advice pages: <https://connollyessayadvice.blogspot.com/>

**Course Description and Objectives**

Calendar description: A study of the earliest English literature in translation. The heroic epic *Beowulf* will be studied in depth, along with a selection of Old English poetry and prose, such as lyrics, riddles, and historical and religious writing.

In this course, we will transport ourselves in time by reading. We will encounter a world fundamentally different from our own, and yet hear the voices of fellow human beings and recognize human experiences. Our primary endeavour will be literary interpretation, but we will also see what we can learn from these texts about their cultural and historical context, including such aspects as the warrior code (*comitatus*), Christian conversion, and Viking invasion. Taking a cue from the texts' own views of history, and the challenges of discerning the Anglo-Saxon world through the obscuring mists of time, we will ponder different ways to conceive the relationship between fact and fiction, history and imagination. We will engage with the literary and material form of these texts as well as their content, and learn about such things as alliterative verse, oral tradition, and manuscript transmission. While we will be reading these texts in translation, we will occasionally discuss, at a basic level, some relevant characteristics and vocabulary of the original Old English.

**Required Texts**

- Liuzza, R. M., ed. and trans. *Old English Poetry: An Anthology*. Broadview, 2014.
- Liuzza, R. M., ed. and trans. *Beowulf*. Second edition. Broadview, 2013.

Other course readings are on online reserve.

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

Please submit assignments via LEARN in the appropriate dropbox for assignment and deadline.

**All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date listed.**

Assessment	Date (see Deadlines and Late Work below)	Weighting
Short essay	31 January / 7 February	25%
Research essay proposal	28 February / 7 March	15%
Research essay	28 March / 4 April	30%
Take-home Final exam	Posted on LEARN 30 March; Due 20 April	30%

**Full information on assignment requirements will be provided in handouts available on LEARN.**

### **Brief descriptions of course requirements**

- The short essay will be 4 to 6 pages in length and will argue a thesis through close reading of one or two texts. Essay questions will be distributed. With permission, students may write on alternative topics.
- The research essay proposal, 2 to 3 pages, will specify the topic in detail, including a tentative thesis or research question, an outline (in paragraphs, not point form), and bibliography.
- The research essay will be 8 to 10 pages. There are two options:
  - a literary interpretation that develops an original thesis about one or more works on the reading list and engages critically with at least 2 scholarly sources
  - a research report that pursues a research question relevant to the course and makes critical use of at least 2 scholarly sources.

Suggested topics will be provided; students are welcome to invent their own topics.

- The final examination will be a take-home exam. It will include a choice of essay questions. Its purpose will be to look back over the course as a whole and demonstrate knowledge of and reflection on the course material. It will be posted on LEARN on 30 March and can be submitted any time up to the final deadline on 20 April.

Grading criteria and essay advice are available at <https://connollyessayadvice.blogspot.com/>

### **Deadlines and Late Work**

- Students have the option to take a week's grace, with no penalty, on deadlines for all assignments (but not the exam). Assignments submitted for the early deadline will receive full written comments and corrections, along with a grading checklist. Assignments submitted for the week's grace deadline will receive a grading checklist only.
- After the week's grace deadline, a late penalty of 20% will apply. However, if you need more time beyond the week's grace deadline, you can request an extension at any point.
- Regardless of when an assignment is handed in, students can always have additional feedback on their work by getting in touch with me.
- All submitted work will be considered finished. In the interest of fairness, there will not be opportunities for rewrites or extra credit.

### **Attendance**

According to the Undergraduate Calendar, "Students are expected to attend all scheduled components of the courses in which they have enrolled." Attendance will be taken in each class. For in-person classes, if you arrive late, it is your responsibility, at the end of class, to check that your presence has been counted. If you must miss class occasionally for good reasons (details not necessary), please let me know.

### **Contingency Plan**

Whenever there is cancellation of in-person classes, whether short-term or long-term, whether university-wide or for this particular course, class sessions will be held online. If there are any cancellations of online class sessions, or any cancellations not addressed by University announcements, they will be communicated to students by e-mail. All class sessions, whether in-person or remote, will be held in the scheduled time slot. If a student must miss any in-person class sessions due to self-isolation, they can arrange, or ask me to arrange, for a classmate to share notes.

## Course Schedule

- This schedule is flexible. Any changes will be announced in class and on LEARN.
- Each selection will be discussed on the day listed. Try to have the reading done in full for that day. In the case of *Beowulf*, try to have as much of the poem read as you can for the first day.
- Please always bring the text under discussion to class.
- All readings not in the *Beowulf* textbook or on reserve are found in *Old English Poetry: An Anthology*.

Date	Deadlines / Holidays	Readings / Topics
Wed 5 Jan		Introduction
Mon 10 Jan		Bede, <i>Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i> (PDF selections on reserve)
Wed 12 Jan		<i>The Wanderer</i>
Mon 7 Jan		<i>The Seafarer</i>
Wed 19 Jan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wulf and Eadwacer</i></li> <li>• <i>The Wife's Lament</i></li> <li>• <i>The Husband's Message</i> (PDF on reserve)</li> </ul>
Mon 24 Jan		<i>The Dream of the Rood</i>
Wed 26 Jan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exeter Book <i>Riddles</i></li> <li>• Old English Metrical Charms</li> </ul>
Mon 31 Jan	Short essay early deadline (comments & grade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Deor</i></li> <li>• <i>Widsith</i></li> </ul>
Wed 2 Feb		<i>Beowulf</i>
Mon 7 Feb	Short essay week's grace deadline (grade only, no penalty)	<i>Beowulf</i>
Wed 9 Feb		<i>Beowulf</i>
Mon 14 Feb		<i>Beowulf</i>
Wed 16 Feb		<i>Beowulf</i>
21-26 Feb	Reading Week	
Mon 28 Feb	Proposal early deadline (full comments & grade)	<i>Beowulf</i>
Wed 2 Mar		<i>Beowulf</i>
Mon 7 Mar	Proposal week's grace deadline (basic comments & grade, no penalty)	<i>Judith</i>
Wed 9 Mar		<i>Andreas</i>
Mon 14 Mar		<i>The Fates of the Apostles</i>
Wed 16 Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Battle of Maldon</i></li> <li>• <i>The Fight at Finnsburgh</i></li> </ul>
Mon 21 Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Battle of Brunanburh</i></li> <li>• <i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> (PDF selections on reserve)</li> </ul>

Wed 23 Mar		<p>Alfred</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Preface to St. Gregory’s Pastoral Care” (PDF on reserve)</li> <li>• “The Metrical Preface to <i>The Pastoral Care</i>” and “The Metrical Epilogue to <i>The Pastoral Care</i>” (PDF on reserve)</li> <li>• Asser, <i>Life of King Alfred</i> (PDF on reserve) The PDF is of the full text. Required reading is sections 8, 11, 22-25, 35-42, 52-56, 64, 73-74, 76, 87-94. (N.B.: The editor’s notes are not included in the PDF because they are very long and historically in-depth rather than explanatory. If you wish to look at the notes, the print book is on reserve in the SJU library.)</li> </ul>
Mon 28 Mar	Research essay early deadline (comments & grade)	Ælfric, <i>Life of St Edmund</i> (in our <i>Beowulf</i> textbook, Appendix D.2)
Wed 30 Mar	Final exam posted	<p>Wulfstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sermo Lupi ad Anglos</i> [The Sermon of the Wolf to the English] (in our <i>Beowulf</i> textbook, Appendix D.1)</li> <li>• <i>On False Gods</i> (in our <i>Beowulf</i> textbook, Appendix C.4)</li> </ul>
Mon 4 Apr	Research essay week’s grace deadline (grade only, no penalty)	Conclusion
Wed 20 Apr	Final exam due	

## Other Information

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.]

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances, [www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload\\_file/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances\\_20151211-SJUSCapproved.pdf](http://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload_file/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCapproved.pdf). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome’s academic advisor who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline, [www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Discipline\\_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf](http://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71, Student Discipline, <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures->

[guidelines/policy-71](#). For typical penalties, check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals, [www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Appeals\\_2013|122-SJUSCapproved.pdf](http://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_2013|122-SJUSCapproved.pdf).

**Note for students with disabilities:** AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term, [www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/).