**ENGL 334-01: Beowulf and Other Early Texts**

**407 TH**

**M & TH 2:45-4**

Instructor: Mr. Allen W. Strouse

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Office Hours: TH 12-1 at Shakespeare & Co. (939 Lex)

Weekly Reading Group: TBD

**Course Description**

*Beowulf* confronts us with the brutal facts of life. In this poem nature plays favorites. A bleak and cruel world doles out advantages to some but turns its back on others. Yet the *Beowulf* poet imagines that we can give meaning to our mortality through companionship, heroism, and poetry. In this class, we will strive to bring that vision to life. We will use immersive methods to experience Old English from the inside out. Acting as philological researchers, we will develop the rules of Old English grammar based on our own observations. Our first-hand knowledge of the language will allow us to develop an ear for the poet’s music, the focus of our course. And to better understand why and how this epic continues to appeal to our imaginations we will read it alongside similar stories (an Old Norse saga, Snorri’s *Edda*, *The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag*, and selections from Tolkien).

**Course Materials**

Required Books (available for purchase at Shakespeare & Co.)

* Byock, *The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki* (Penguin)
* Corbett, *The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayagi* (Oxford)
* Jack, *Beowulf: A Student Edition* (Oxford)
* Sweet, *Sweet’s Anglo-Saxon Primer* (Oxford)
* Tolkein, *The Hobbit* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

+ Scans on Blackboard

**Assignments**

* For specific instructions for each session see Course Materials > Assignments.
* For information on vocabulary quizzes see Course Materials > Vocab.
* Submit all assignments in hardcopy. (These will provide a record of attendance.)

**Schedule and Requirements[[1]](#footnote--1)\***

M 02/01: “Fæder ure”

Th 02/04: Matthew 18

M 02/08: “Wife’s Lament”

Th 02/11: “Wanderer,” “Seafarer”

M 02/15: NO CLASS

Th 02/18: Ælfric, *Grammar*

M 02/22: Ælfric, *Grammar*

Th 02/25: “Alexander’s Letter to Aristotle”

M 02/29: Snorri, *Edda* and/or Ælfric, *Lives of the Saints*

Th 03/03: *Beowulf*

M 03/07: *Beowulf*

Th 03/10: *Beowulf*

M 03/14: *Beowulf*

Th 03/17: *Beowulf*

M 03/21: *Beowulf*

Th 03/24: *Beowulf*

M 03/28: *Beowulf*

Th 03/31: *Beowulf*

M 04/04: *Beowulf*

Th 04/07: *Beowulf*

M 04/11: *Hrolf Kraki*

Th 04/14: *Man-Eating Leopard*

M 04/18: *Hobbit*

Th 04/21: *Hobbit*

M 04/25: NO CLASS

Th 04/28: NO CLASS

M 05/02: *Hobbit*

Th 05/05: *Hobbit*

M 05/09: Presentations

Th 05/12: Presentations

M 05/16: Heaney, “Crediting Poetry”

**Policies**

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Statement of Accommodation

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of Access ABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations.  For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230).

Attendance

Students who miss four or more sessions without reasonable justification will most likely fail the course. Lateness and lack of preparedness will be considered as absences.

Components of grades

Final Project… 40%

Assignments… 30%

Presentation… 10%

Quizzes… 10%

Participation… 10%

**Office Hours**

I’m interested in having everyone do as well as possible (a true fact), so if you’re having problems of any kind, please let me know. Drop by my office for any reason, or for no special reason at all.

1. \* Schedule and requirements subject to change. (Look for alerts via email.) [↑](#footnote-ref--1)