



**Required Texts:**

Jonathan Evans, *An Introduction to Old English*. New York: MLA Publications, 2018.

R.D. Fulk, ed. and trans., *The Beowulf Manuscript*. Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Harvard UP, 2010.

J.R.R. Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings*. 3-vol. set. New York: HarperCollins, 2007. \$26.55

J.R.R. Tolkien, *Beowulf: A Translation and Commentary together with Sellic Spell*. London: HarperCollins, 2015.

Other course materials will be posted to the class website, or available through the library.

**Optional Texts:**

Fr. Klaeber, ed. *Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg*. 1945. Andesite Press, August 2017.

**Course Evaluation:**

Participation	10%
Online written assignments	6 @ 5% = 30%
<i>Battle of Maldon</i> assignment, October	10%
Essay in class, November	10%
Presentations 1 @ 10%, 1 @ 20% (with writeup)	30%
Essay in class, February	10%

**Participation:** Participation marks will be given for attendance to the full class, for engagement (that is, having read the materials in advance, prepared the homework, and generally faced up to the exigencies of the course), for the quality of questions and answers, and for helpfulness with colleagues. Feedback on participation will occur at least once during the course so that you know where you stand.

**Online Written Assignments:** Submitted on OWL, these will be engagements in 500-750 words with one of the texts or ideas treated in the previous week. Students generally want more specific comments about what is expected here. You can do research, and it is a good idea to take something we discuss briefly in class and dig into it more deeply. At the same time it is possible to write an excellent short paper that uses only the materials we are reading and studying in the

course. You can choose to write about the Old English material, or the Tolkien material, or the connections between the two: this is your choice. I am happy to discuss your paper briefly, and I will mark it fairly quickly so as to give you feedback for the next paper. The idea here is for you to solidify your learning several times each term, so that you really know the course materials and can develop your ideas. Students sometimes pick a theme they will carry through all their papers, or an approach, or a theory to apply, or they focus on a particular character or ideal. Some simply work each week to figure out something they can apply from a previous course or from their own knowledge. Three papers must be submitted by the last due date in December, and three more by the last due date in April.

**Short Presentations:** My basic principles for marking in-class presentations are: content as appropriate for the rest of the class, clarity of delivery, time-keeping, quality of ancillary materials. In short, these presentations are opportunities to engage with your colleagues, and that will be the focus in the grading. That is, feel free to impress me if you want, but I will be grading you on how much you convey to your colleagues and how they respond to your presentation. For the second of these, you will submit a written version of the paper at the end of the session.

***Battle of Maldon* assignment:** We will discuss this in class, but this assignment can be a paper on an aspect of the poem or Tolkien's reaction to it, or more generally to the discussions of war and tactics we will be having in class, or a creative response to the poem or Tolkien's poem. The work should be not more than a thousand words.

**Essay assignments in class:** This will be pretty much what it sounds like, a chance to write a formal essay about some aspect of the material studied that day and in the previous couple of weeks, using your textbooks and notes and other written materials as needed.