



ENGLISH 310

OLD ENGLISH

15 October 2012
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MIDTERM TAKE-HOME

This midterm assignment takes the same form as your final paper. The objects of both are 1) to produce a close translation of an Old English text, 2) to describe grammatical properties of the text, and 3) to offer an interpretation of the text that explains the choices in your translation.

1. Choose a poem, riddle, or maxim and translate it as closely as possible (more word-for-word than sense-for-sense). Try to make it readable in Present-Day English. [10 to 15 lines]
2. Offer some observations of the grammar of the text, especially where the grammar invokes a stylistic peculiarity. Notice, please, any variations from SVO, profusions of prepositional phrases, heaps of datives, paucities of verbs, curious adjectives, intertwined descriptions, separable descriptions, compound objects, and so forth. You may want to describe how these specific stylistic peculiarities affect your response to the poem. [2 pages]
3. What are your impressions of the text? What sense do you have of its background? What invisible forces or images or sensations are influencing your translations? [3 pages]

Due 29 October, 7:00 pm in class.