

## MIDTERM PAPER

*Please write a paper, double-spaced, serifed font, 12 points, listing works cited. 5 to 7 pages. Due 27 October. Worth 20%.*

*Write on one of these poems: Caedmon's Hymn, Dream of the Rood, Seafarer, a riddle, or Wulf & Eadwacer.*

**Topic One.** Translate and comment on a brief Old English poem or a 25-line portion of a long poem. Begin with an overview of the **major** issues in the critical history of the poem. Use the critical history to contextualize your own view. (Where do you fit into the conversation?) Then, add your views on one small, specific, detailed aspect of a poem. A great guide is Amodio. Also check Greenfield & Calder and Fulk & Cain.

**Topic Two.** Discuss one or more translations of an Old English poem. Compare the translation(s) to the original Old English. Using a good dictionary (the *Dictionary of Old English* or Bosworth-Toller) to ground your view, discuss the effects of the translator's choices on your experience of the poem.

**Topic Three.** Describe your reception of an Old English poem. What ideas come into your head at which particular points? How do particular words prompt certain emotions or intellections? How does the unfolding of the story shape your perception? Try to avoid boiling it all down into a conclusion. In other words, describe the serial variety of your experience, not its unity.

**Topic Four.** Describe the path that the poem took to get from the manuscript to your printed copy. Who were the editors? Who printed the text? What was changed?

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Amodio, Mark. *The Anglo-Saxon Literature Handbook*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

Greenfield, Sidney and Daniel Calder. *A New Critical History of Old English Literature*. New York University Press, 1986.

Fulk, R. D. and Christopher Cain. *A History of Old English Literature*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2004.