**Response Paper #1 Project Guidelines**

*Beowulf* and Old English vocabulary

Although we are reading the text in its Modern English translation, a foray into the original language will help contextualize Anglo-Saxon culture and background material for the *Beowulf* epic.

1. Select one or two Anglo-Saxon words or kennings from the list below.

2. Using the online Bosworth-Toller Old English Dictionary (hosted by UPenn), research the direct translation of the term.

3. Considering the term’s meaning and connotations, focus a response paper on how that idea functions in *Beowulf* overall. For example, *wyrd* means fate, fortune, chance, the otherwise-than-humanly-appointed order of things. A response paper might focus on how Beowulf’s actions in a particular section are driven by *wyrd* rather than by his own volition.

*Terms* (spelling and line #s correspond to Seamus Heaney edition)

*Themes*:

**temporality**: geār-dagum (1), gescæp-hwīle (26), bealo-cwealm (2265), feorh-lege (2800), dæg-rīm (823)

**warriorhood**: gūð-ceare (1258), blæd (18), gescæp-hwīle (26), fæhðe (1537), gār-secg (49), ingenga (1777), wræc (2336), bīor-sele (2635)

**material wealth**: blæd (18), bēaga bryttan (35), þēod-gestrēon (44), gold-wlanc (1881), gold-gyfan (2652), lof-geornost (3182)

**monsters**: āglæc-wīf (1259), eald-gewinna (1777), ingenga (1777), ellen-gæst (86), mearc-stapa (103), fīfel-cynnes (104), eotenas (112), ylfe (112), orcnēas (112), æglæca (159), dēaþ-scūa (160), gāst-bona (177), fēondum (420), ellor-gāst (807), wyrm (886)

**femininity**: āglæc-wīf (1259), freoðu-webbe (1942), heals-gebedda (63)

**spirituality**: gescæp-hwīle (26), middan-geard (1771), frumsceaft (91), feorh-lege (2800), me[t]odsceafte (2815), gāst-bona (177), fēondum (420), sāw[e]l-berendra (1004)

**corporeality**: bān-fatu (1116), bān-cofan (1445), heals-gebedda (63), bealo-cwealm (2265), bān-hūs (2508), bīor-sele (2635), bēor-þege (117), dēaþ-scūa (160), word-hord (259), līc-h[a]ma (812), sāw[e]l-berendra (1004)

**voyaging**: hron-rāde (10), gār-secg (49), feorh-lege (2800), me[t]odsceafte (2815), ellor-gāst (807)