ENG 430/530: Old English III (Beowulf and the Dragon): Syllabus

This course will use the tools and knowledge acquired in previous terms of Old English to read the dragon section of Beowulf with critical and philological skill. We will pay attention to language, literary, and scholarly issues. To this end, please come to every class prepared to translate, parse, and comment on the assigned text.

In addition to translation and secondary reading, students will be responsible for a short commentary on a passage of ten lines or so, to be selected by the student from the text assigned for translation. There will also be a paper (around 6 pages for undergraduates, around 10 pages for graduates) and a final exam.

Required text:
Beowulf, ed. George Jack (in UO Bookstore)
any modern translation of Beowulf (not ordered for bookstore). The best one is by Roy Liuza, but there are many good ones. Note that the famous translation by Seamus Heaney is not strictly accurate (Heaney translated it without knowing Old English! Not unlike some of us!)

You may also wish to own:
A Beowulf Handbook, ed. Robert E. Bjork and John D. Niles (graduates should buy this)
Christine Rauer, Beowulf and the Dragon: Parallels and Analogues
Joyce Tally Lionarons, The Medieval Dragon
(These have not been ordered for the UO bookstore.)

All other texts will be available on Blackboard or in class.

Grading:
Undergraduates:
required: class preparation, translation, article summary & memorization
These do not receive letter grades, but egregious performance in any of them will lower your overall grade.
passage exercise 10%; midterm 20%; final exam 40%; paper 30%

Graduates:
required: class preparation, translation, article/book summary & memorization
These do not receive letter grades, but egregious performance in any of them will lower your overall grade.
passage exercise 10%; midterm 20%; final exam 30%; paper 40%

Ominous warning section: Plagiarism will cause you to fail the course. Hwæt!

April
Tu 2: Unseen section of Beowulf. Grammar review.

Tu  9:  For this week, be prepared to translate *Beowulf* lines 2208-2220, 2241-2286. This and all other weeks, *read the passages we have skipped in a modern English translation. We want a full linear understanding of the poem!*

Th 11: Translation continued.

Tu 16: lines 2287-2332, 2510-2528
Secondary reading (required for graduates, optional for undergraduates):
Joyce Lionarons, *The Medieval Dragon*, ch. 2, “*Beowulf* and the *Beowulf* Dragon”

Th 18: Translation continued.

Tu 23: lines 2529-2595
Th  25: Translation continued.

Tu 30: lines 2596-2646
Secondary reading (required for everyone): Old Norse dragon tales (to be passed out in class)

May
Th  2: Translation continued.

Tu  7: lines 2646-2693
Secondary reading (required for graduates, optional for undergraduates):
Joyce Lionarons, *The Medieval Dragon*, ch. 3, “*Fáfnir*” (on reserve)

Th  9: Translation continued.

Tu 14: lines 2694-2766
Th 16: MIDTERM

Tu 21: lines 2783-2845
  A title and two-sentence summary of your paper topic is due today. Graduates should also include a brief bibliography of articles or books to be consulted on the topic (no more than around half a page).

Th 23: Translation continued.

Tu 28: lines 2845-2891, 3038-3057
Th 30: Translation continued.

June
Tu  4: lines 3120-3182 (end). Undergraduate papers due.
Th  6: Translation continued.

Final exam: **8:00 Thursday, June 13.** (May be rescheduled according to the decision of the class.) Graduate papers are due at the time of the exam.