Part 1: Course Description
This course will use the tools and knowledge acquired in previous terms of Old English to read the monsters 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.

Grading Breakdown
- Class Preparation and Participation: 10
- Presentation: 10
- Textual assignments: 30 (#2 is weighted more heavily)
- Final Exam: 25
- Essay Prospectus: 25

Required Texts: do not buy e-books

Recommended
Hacker, Diana. Rules for Writers, 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010. (If you already own a stylebook, you may use the one you have. If you do not currently own a style book, you should buy this. Earlier editions won’t have the latest word on citing electronic sources, but they’ll do for most things.)

Neque enim possunt carmina, quamvis optime composita, ex alia in aliam linguam ad verbum sine detrimento sui decoris ac dignitatis transferri. —The Venerable Bede, Historia Ecclesiastica

(Its impossible to make a literal translation of poetry, no matter how well written, into another language without losing some of the beauty and dignity.)
Part 2: Syllabus

Lines for a given week will be narrowed down from the passages given below.

Week 1
M Introduction, Review
W Beowulf ll. 1-52: Scyld Scefing

Week 2
M Beowulf ll. 64-114: Grendel; Liuzza to l. 114
  Beowulf Handbook presentations
W Beowulf ll. 134b-169: Grendel’s depredations; Liuzza to l. 169

Week 3
M Beowulf ll. 371-498: Hrothgar and Beowulf; Liuzza to l. 498
  Assignment 1: Metrics
W cont. assigned lines

Week 4
M Beowulf ll. 499-606: Beowulf and Unferth; Liuzza to l. 606
  Beowulf Handbook presentations
W cont. assigned lines

Week 5
M Beowulf ll. 702b-836: Beowulf and Grendel; Liuzza to l. 836
  Assignment 2: Word Study
W cont. assigned lines

Week 6
M Beowulf ll. 1008b-1045: Hrothgar’s Gifts; Liuzza to l. 1045
  Beowulf Handbook presentations
W Beowulf ll. 1192-1231: Wealhtheow’s Gifts; Liuzza to l. 1230

Week 7
M Beowulf ll. 1171-1159a: The Fight at Finnsburg
  Assignment 3: Editing Theory
W cont. assigned lines

Week 8
M Beowulf ll. 1251-1306a: Mrs. Grendel; Liuzza to l. 1306a
  Beowulf Handbook presentations
W Beowulf ll. 1321-1382: Hrothgar’s description of the Grendels and their home; Liuzza to l. 1382.

Week 9
M Memorial Day: No Class
Part 3: Learning Outcomes

**Main Goals:** Through in-depth study of *Beowulf* in the original language, you should gain skill in close and careful reading of a particular medieval text as well as deeper knowledge of the culture that produced it. This class builds on Old English I and II in furthering your knowledge of Old English and giving you a better grasp of Modern English grammar. This class will also allow you to situate yourself more deeply within the long tradition of English literature and thought.

**Read/Analyze.** Your careful study of the assigned passages and texts in preparation for class should increase your level of comfort with the language and give you greater awareness of what is to be gained by close reading a particular text. Your reading will also tune you in to the conventions of Old English poetry. Lectures and supplementary reading will further orient you to the formal characteristics of Old English poetry.

**Contextualize.** Class lectures, assigned readings, and a variety of course assignments will introduce major terminology, methodology, and interpretive issues in studying *Beowulf* specifically and Old English and much medieval literature more generally. In addition, the resources will help situate *Beowulf* within their cultural, historical, and literary contexts. Class translation and parsing should increase your comfort with using grammatical terminology.

**Research.** The written assignments are designed to familiarize you with some of the tools and techniques of Old English linguistic research, and the issues and methodologies involved in editing and translating.

**Write.** The final written assignment is designed to allow you to apply your linguistic research to the interpretation of *Beowulf*. You should therefore gain skill in writing a focused analytic essay in clear grammatical prose that advances an original argument. There are various resources on campus to help you; my office hours are one of them.