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

(It is impossible to make a literal translation of poetry, no matter how well written, into another language without losing some of the beauty and dignity.)
fitt .i. Course Description

Old English III 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, including more in-depth study of Old English poetic form and also approaches to translating literature from one language to another.

fitt .ii. Texts Needed

Required

Recommended
➢ oepoetry.ca has a glossed Beowulf. Go to oepoetry.ca > Texts of OE Poems > scroll to bottom of page > Beowulf and Judith > Beowulf (orange link)

Old English Special Characters. If you’re clever about these things you can remap your keyboard. If you’re not clever at all, insert symbols (or cut and paste). If you’re medium clever, use alt code shortcuts. These given are for PC:

Æ alt+0198  Ð alt+0208  þ alt+0222
æ alt+0230  ð alt+0240  þ alt+0254

fitt .iii. Itinerary

For a 4-credit college course, you should be putting in an average of 8-12 hours a week outside of class, and if your translating speed is about 10 lines an hour (some of you are faster, some slower), you should be able to translate 50-100 lines per week (leaving some extra time for further assignments). You may not be able to get through all the lines assigned; do your best.

Since we’re only translating select passages from the Old English, please read the entire poem in Liuzza’s translation. We’ll be discussing these sections as well in class.
Weekly Rhythm

**Mondays:** I strongly encourage you to form study groups and meet with your group on Monday or Tuesday. This will help you stay active in OE all week, which is a better method for language-learning.

**Tuesdays:** Difficult Passages due by midnight* on passage assigned for the coming Friday’s class (*or whenever I download it; I won’t be downloading it at midnight)

**Wednesdays:** All written assignments (first Self-evaluation essay, three Textual Assignments) are due on **Wednesday at noon – NOON!!** – in the week indicated

**Fridays:** Class. You should have the passage translated and ready to go for Fridays. Our translation method will be much the same as it has been in OEII. Friday classes will have a 10-minute break in the middle.

**Week 1:**
Translate: *Beowulf* ll. 1-52: Scyld Scefing (52 lines)
Read in Liuzza: Introduction to text and ll. 1-63

**Week 2:**
Translate: *Beowulf* ll. 64-114, 134b-169: Grendel (85 lines)
Read: ll. 64-319
**DUE Wednesday:** Self-evaluation essay

**Week 3:**
*Beowulf* ll. 371-389, 407-490: Hrothgar and Beowulf (101 lines)
Read: ll. 320-498
DUE: Assignment 1: Metrics

**Week 4:**
*Beowulf* ll. 499-606: Beowulf and Unferth (107 lines)
Read: ll. 499-702a

**Week 5:**
*Beowulf* ll. 702b-766, 783b-824a: Beowulf and Grendel (105 lines)
Read: ll. 702b-836
DUE Assignment 2: Editing Theory
DUE Self-evaluation Midterm Check In

**Week 6:**
*Beowulf* ll. 867b-915: Sigemund, Heremod (48 lines)
Read: ll. 837-1049

**Week 7:**
*Beowulf* ll. 1008b-1045: Hrothgar’s Gifts; ll. 1192-1231: Wealhtheow’s Gifts (84 lines)
Read: ll. 1050-1250
Recitations commence (please email to make an appointment, preferably during office hours)

**Week 8:**
*Beowulf* ll. 1251-1306a, 1321-1382: Mrs. Grendel (106 lines)
Read: ll. 1251-1472
DUE Assignment 3: Translating Theory

**Week 9:**  *Beowulf* ll. 1492-1590: Beowulf fights Mrs. Grendel (98 lines)
Read: ll. 1473-1685

**Week 10:**  *Beowulf* ll. 1700-1784: Hrothgar’s “sermon” (84 lines)
Read: ll. 1686-1887
DUE: Optional OE composition. Grad student research project

**Final exam:** Due Monday of finals week **by noon**
**Second Self-evaluation essay:** Due Thursday of finals week **by noon**