Beowulf

Term:	Winter 2025/2026	**Instructor:**	Dr P. S. Langeslag
Time:	Wednesdays 10:15–11:45	**Office:**	SEP 2.306
Room:	Theo 0.136	**Office hours:**	(send me an email)
Credits:	6/see module description	**E-mail:**	planges@uni-goettingen.de
Prerequisites:	See module description		

This syllabus comprises an Overview (p. 1), a Schedule (p. 2), and an annotated Bibliography (p. 3).

Overview

Course Description

No other Old English text has captured the imaginations of modern audiences quite like *Beowulf*. Its richness as a less-latinate work of art has encouraged a wide range of scholarly angles, ranging from language and metre to every aspect of its content, including extensive studies of narrative details shared with neighbouring cultures, and the painstaking reconstruction of obliquely referenced narratives. The poem assumes such a unique and central place among the longest and seemingly oldest Old English verse narratives, in fact, that the experience of reading the full text in the original may rightfully be considered an essential part of the English curriculum. If only time allowed!

To make the most of the limited time at our disposal, we will rely on a facing-page translation, allowing us to dip in and out of the original text as desired. This approach gives those able to spare the time a chance to work their way through an average of 250 lines of Old English per week, while limiting the *required* weekly Old English exposure to an average of 46 lines. In the time gained by our reliance on a bilingual edition, we will read a necessarily limited selection of brief scholarly takes. These readings will combine with our weekly in-class discussions of the text and its reception to give students a representative understanding of the sorts of questions *Beowulf* elicits, and which they themselves may seek to answer in their coursework and perhaps in a thesis.

Assessment

Students of B.Eng.602 write a **60-minute exam** (**18 Feb at 10 sharp** in a room TBD; see the exam specifications for details); all other modules are assessed by way of a **term paper due 31 March**. The norm for paper length is c. 3,000 words for M.EP.02b and c. 7,500 words for B.Eng.631, M.EP.05b, and M.EP.05d. See the paper specifications for details and suggested topics.

Required and Recommended Texts and Resources

We will be using the edition and translation in

- **R. D. Fulk, ed. and trans., *The "Beowulf" Manuscript: Complete Texts and "The Fight at Finnsburg,"* Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 3 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010)**

That is the one volume I urge you to acquire for this course. Anyone keen to get the most out of the text may choose to pick up the leading critical edition as well:

- R. D. Fulk, Robert E. Bjork, and John D. Niles, eds., *Klaeber's " 'Beowulf' and 'The Fight at Finnsburg,'"* 4th ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008)

Alternatively, or additionally, either of the following annotated texts serves well as a guide to translation:

- George Jack, ed., *Beowulf: A Student Edition*, revised edition (Oxford, 1997)
- Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson, eds., *Beowulf: An Edition* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1998)

(For the available fitts, you may find Baker's online edition helpful when translating.)

Secondary readings will be made available on Stud.IP.

Schedule

Please prepare the following readings and do the following work *ahead* of the corresponding session, taking notes for in-class discussion. Since you'll be working with a facing-page translation, the instruction to "translate" here means to study the OE passage in question until you understand how it works syntactically and are able to sightread it. You are expected to be intimately familiar with the rest of the narrative as well, just not the language beyond what is brought up in class. But do read for interesting turns of phrase and record them in your list of observations so we can discuss these in class.

week	date	topic	reading
1	29 Oct	Poetics	Place your book orders!
			And you could do worse than to study my videos on poetics.
2	5 Nov	Avenues of research; Allegorical readings	*Beowulf* fitts 0–4 (ll. 1–319; translate 74–110); **Helder, "The Song of Creation"** (11 pp.); **Horowitz, "Beowulf, Samson, David and Christ"** (6 pp.) *Further reading: Fulk, "The Origin of the Numbered Sections in 'Beowulf' and in Other Poems" (19 pp.)*
3	12 Nov	Cruces	*Beowulf* fitts 5–9 (ll. 320–661; translate 499–543); **Kaske, "The *gifstol* Crux in *Beowulf*"** (6 pp.)
4	19 Nov	Maxims	*Beowulf* fitts 10–12 (ll. 662–836; translate 710–757); **Karkov and Farrell, "The Gnomic Passages of *Beowulf*"** (13 pp.)
5	26 Nov	Dating	*Beowulf* fitts 13–15 (ll. 837–1049; translate 867b–915); **Frank, "A Scandal in Toronto"** (22 pp.) *Counterpoint: Fulk, "'Beowulf' and Language History" (17 pp.)*
6	3 Dec	Finnsburg	*Beowulf* fitts 16–17 (ll. 1050–1191; translate 1125–1159); *The Fight at Finnsburg* (translate 1–12); **Tolkien, "Reconstruction"** (*Finn and Hengest* 159–162, i.e. 4 pp.)
7	10 Dec	The extrasocietal world	*Beowulf* fitts 18–21 (ll. 1192–1472; translate 1399–1441a); **Langeslag, "Monstrous Landscape"** (16 pp.)
8	17 Dec	Analogues	*Beowulf* fitts 22–26 (ll. 1473–1887; translate 1687–1724a); **Turville-Petre, "*Beowulf* and *Grettis saga*"** (10 pp.); From **Scowcroft, "Irish Analogues," pp. 22–29** (i.e. 8 pp.)
9	7 Jan	Episodes	*Beowulf* fitts 27–31 (ll. 1888–2220; translate 2020–2066); From **Bonjour, *Digressions*, pp. 24–35, 68–69** (13 pp.) *Further reading: Bjork, "Digressions and Episodes" (19 pp.), and the remainder of Bonjour*
10	14 Jan	The built environment	*Beowulf* fitts 32–33 (ll. 2221–2390; translate 2221–2277); **Thornbury, "*eald enta geweorc* and the Relics of Empire"** (10 pp.) *Further reading: Wentersdorf, "Heorot" (18 pp.)*
11	21 Jan	Economics	*Beowulf* fitts 34–35 (ll. 2391–2601; translate 2425–2471); **Naismith, "The Economy of *Beowulf*"** (14 pp.); **Porter, "The Social Centrality of Women in *Beowulf*"** (4,000 words)
12	28 Jan	Dynasty 1	*Beowulf* fitts 36–38 (ll. 2602–2820; translate 2631–2693); **Eliason, "Beowulf, Wiglaf and the Wægmundings"** (11 pp.)
13	4 Feb	Dynasty 2	*Beowulf* fitts 39–40 (ll. 2821–2945; translate 2821–2859); **Earl, "Forbidden *Beowulf*"** (15 pp.)
14	11 Feb	The Swedish wars	*Beowulf* fitts 41–43 (ll. 2946–3182; translate 2946–2998); **Earl, "The Swedish Wars in *Beowulf*"** (25+4 pp.)

The following is a select list of recommended further readings that could not be accommodated as mandatory reading:

- Hiatt, "*Beowulf* off the Map" (30 pp.)
- Kiernan, "The Eleventh-Century Origin of *Beowulf* and the *Beowulf* Manuscript" (14 pp.)
- Neidorf, "Germanic Legend, Scribal Errors, and Cultural Change" (20 pp.)
- The remainder of Scowcroft, "The Irish Analogues to 'Beowulf'" (35 additional pp.)

- Tolkien, "*Beowulf* : The Monsters and the Critics" (51 pp.)
- Williams, *Cain and Beowulf* (100 pp.)
- Wormald, "Bede, *Beowulf* and the Conversion of the Aristocracy" (41 pp. plus appendix)

Tutorials

For extra training of your Old English reading comprehension, look for tutorials and reading groups on Stud.IP. If capacity allows, the tutorials for the Introduction to Medieval English Literature and Culture are open to you, as is the student-run Göttingen Guild of Medieval Literature. You may also find my grammar videos of use, and perhaps some of my old flashcards (NB: no HTTPS).

Diversity

This course is run with the understanding that students bring a variety of backgrounds into the classroom in such domains as socioeconomics, appearance, culture, religion, ability, prior knowledge, gender, age, home/family situation, and sexual identity. With different backgrounds come different needs and sensitivities. If you feel your needs or those of a fellow student require special attention or are being compromised, please feel free to make this known to me by whatever channel seems most appropriate. (For more serious concerns, the University has an independent office.) I will treat all requests seriously and with confidentiality, and will seek to make accommodations within my abilities and reason. At the same time, you too owe it to your fellow students to treat them with respect regardless of their background and identity. Do not stand in the way of anyone's well-being.

Bibliography

§1: Editions and Reference

Baker, Peter S. "Metre." In *Introduction to Old English*, 3rd ed., 123–132. Malden, MA: Wiley–Blackwell, 2012.

   A brief but well-informed introduction.

———, ed. "Old English Aerobics." http://www.oldenglishaerobics.net.

   See under "Anthology" for a work-in-progress click-for-gloss edition of Beowulf.

Bliss, Alan. *An Introduction to Old English Metre*. With an introduction by Daniel Donoghue. Old English Newsletter Subsidia 20. Binghamton, NY: Center for Medieval / Early Renaissance Studies, 1993.

   A fine introduction, though Bliss's typology gets complicated in the end.

———. *The Scansion of "Beowulf."* Old English Newsletter Subsidia 22. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute, 1995.

   For each Bliss verse type, prints examples from "Beowulf" along with basic statistics on its distribution.

Bosworth, Joseph, ed. *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*. Ed. and enlarged by T. Northcote Toller. With enlarged addenda and corrigenda by Alistair Campbell. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1973. https://bosworthtoller.com.

   The most complete dictionary of Old English to date, if rather outdated (the main dictionary was published in 1898). Please note that the online surrogate represents the 1898 edition, not the 1973 edition with Campbell's revisions and addenda.

Cameron, Angus, Ashley Crandell Amos, Antonette diPaolo Healey, et al., eds. *Dictionary of Old English: A to Le*. Toronto: Dictionary of Old English Project, 2024. https://doe.artsci.utoronto.ca.

   The best, if incomplete, dictionary of Old English. Accessible to Göttingen students via EduVPN, and for the remainder of 2025 via this link. NB poor server throughput!

Fulk, R. D., ed. and trans. *The "Beowulf" Manuscript: Complete Texts and "The Fight at Finnsburg."* Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library 3. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.

   An affordable facing-page edition and unsurpassed translation, building on the leading critical edition.

Fulk, R. D., Robert E. Bjork, and John D. Niles, eds. *Klaeber's " 'Beowulf' and 'The Fight at Finnsburg.'"* 4th ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008.

   The leading critical edition, with notes summarizing the entire history of scholarship.

Jack, George, ed. *Beowulf: A Student Edition*. Revised edition. Oxford, 1997.

Kiernan, Kevin, ed. "Electronic Beowulf," 2015. https://ebeowulf.uky.edu/ebeo4.0.

   Online edition with MS images and full scansion. NB divergent line numbering.

Mitchell, Bruce, and Fred C. Robinson, eds. *Beowulf: An Edition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1998.

    A heavily annotated student edition.

———. "Metre: With Examples from the Poems in this 'Guide.'" In *A Guide to Old English*, 8th ed., 156–162. Malden, MA: Wiley–Blackwell, 2012.

    A brief but well-informed introduction.

Scragg, Donald G. "The Nature of Old English Verse." In *The Cambridge Companion to Old English Verse*, 2nd ed., 50–65. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

    A brief introduction.

Terasawa, Jun. *Old English Metre: An Introduction*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

    The most accessible handbook to date.

Tolkien, J. R. R. "Old English Verse." In *The Fall of Arthur*, edited by Christopher Tolkien, 223–233. London: HarperCollins, 2013.

    An accessible introduction to Old English verse form, originally written for a BBC radio broadcast.

Vickman, Jeffrey. *A Metrical Concordance to "Beowulf."* With a foreword by R. D. Fulk. Old English Newsletter Subsidia 16. Binghamton, NY: Center for Medieval / Early Renaissance Studies, 1990.

    A full index of metrical types in "Beowulf," based on the Bliss system.

§2: Corpora

Healey, Antonette diPaolo, ed. *Dictionary of Old English Web Corpus*. Edited by John Price Wilkin and Xin Xiang. Toronto, 2024. https://doe.artsci.utoronto.ca.

    A 3-million-word corpus covering approximately every text (but not every manuscript witness) of Old English. A 2000 release containing HTML and SGML corpora, but not XML, is available from the Oxford Text Archive.

Hidley, Greg, and Duncan Macrae-Gibson, eds. *Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records*, 1993. Accessed October 22, 2025.

    All Old English poetry encoded in XML, accessible through the Oxford Text Archive. More or less the same data are now also available through CLASP.

Orchard, Andy, et al., eds. *CLASP: A Consolidated Library of Anglo-Saxon Poetry*. Accessed September 2, 2025. https://clasp.ell.ox.ac.uk.

    An XML corpus of Old English and early Anglo-Latin poetry, searchable by scansion or word type.

Oxford Text Archive. Oxford. https://ota.bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

    A portal providing access to a range of digital corpora. Apparently moving to https://llds.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk.

Pintzuk, Susan, Ann Taylor, Anthony Warner, Leendert Plug, and Frank Beths, eds. *York–Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English Poetry*. Accessed October 10, 2025. https://www-users.york.ac.uk/~lang18/pcorpus.html.

    Subset of the Helsinki corpus parsed for syntax. Available through the Oxford Text Archive.

§3: Scholarship

Amos, Ashley Crandell. *Linguistic Means of Determining the Dates of Old English Literary Texts*. Medieval Academy Books 90. Cambridge, MA: Medieval Academy of America, 1980.

    Expresses skepticism about the majority of linguistic tests for dating verse.

Anlezark, Daniel. "All at Sea: Beowulf's Marvellous Swimming." In *Myths, Legends, and Heroes: Essays on Old Norse and Old English literature in honour of John McKinnell*, edited by Daniel Anlezark, 225–241. Toronto Old Norse and Icelandic Studies. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Baker, Peter S. *Honour, Exchange and Violence in "Beowulf."* Anglo-Saxon Studies 20. Woodbridge: Brewer, 2013.

Biggs, Frederick M. "*Beowulf* and Some Fictions of the Geatish Succession." *Anglo-Saxon England* 32 (2003): 55–77.

Bjork, Robert E. "Digressions and Episodes." In Bjork and Niles, *A "Beowulf" Handbook*, 193–212.

    Sums up the history of scholarship on the so-called digressions.

Bjork, Robert E., and John D. Niles, eds. *A "Beowulf" Handbook*. Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 1997.

    A superb collection of essays summing up the state of every aspect of "Beowulf" scholarship.

Bjork, Robert E., and Anita Obermeier. "Date, Provenance, Author, Audiences." In Bjork and Niles, *A "Beowulf" Handbook*.

    A solid account of dating fashions up to 1993, but now in need of updating.

Bliss, Alan. *The Metre of "Beowulf."* Revised edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 1967.

    Introduces Bliss's metrical typology while concisely grappling with advanced issues of Old English metrics.

Bolton, W. F. *Alcuin and "Beowulf": An Eighth-Century View*. London: Edward Arnold, 1979.

    Attempts to reconstruct what a litteratus like Alcuin would have made of "Beowulf."

Bonjour, Adrien. *The Digressions in "Beowulf."* Medium Ævum Monographs 5. Oxford: Blackwell, 1950.

    The first standard work on the poem's so-called "digressions."

Boyle, Leonard E. "The Nowell Codex and the Poem of *Beowulf*." In Chase, *The Dating of "Beowulf*," 23–32.

    A study much like Kiernan's on the codicology of the poem, but stopping short of Kiernan's revision theory.

Brown, Carleton. "*Beowulf* and the Blickling Homilies and Some Textual Notes." *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 53, no. 4 (December 1938): 905–916.

Burns, Rachel A., and Rafael J. Pascual, eds. *Tradition and Innovation in Old English Metre*. Leeds: Arc Humanities Press, 2022. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1515/9781802700251.

    A recent volume of essays.

Butts, Richard. "The Analogical Mere: Landscape and Terror in *Beowulf*." *English Studies* 68, no. 2 (1987): 113–121.

Cable, Thomas. "Metrical Style as Evidence for the Date of *Beowulf*." In Chase, *The Dating of "Beowulf*," 77–82.

    Tallies the proportions of the various Sievers types per poem and assesses the value of this approach for dating.

Cavill, Paul. *Maxims in Old English Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Chambers, R. W. *Beowulf: An Introduction to the Study of the Poem with a Discussion of the Stories of Offa and Finn*. 3rd ed. With a supplement by C. L. Wrenn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.

    Includes one of the most thorough treatments of the analogues.

———. "Beowulf's Fight with Grendel, and its Scandinavian Parallels." *English Studies* 11 (1929): 81–100.

Chase, Colin, ed. *The Dating of "Beowulf."* Toronto Old English Series 6. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1981. Reprinted 1997 with an afterword by Nicholas Howe.

    The proceedings to a 1980 conference that undermined the consensus that "Beowulf" is an early poem.

Coffin, Richard Neal. "*Beowulf* and its Relationship to Norse and Finno-Ugric Beliefs and Narratives." Unpublished doctoral thesis, Boston University, 1962.

Cox, Betty S. *Cruces of "Beowulf."* Studies in English Literature 60. The Hague: Mouton, 1971.

Cronan, Dennis. "Alliterative Rank in Old English Poetry." *Studia Neophilologica* 58 (2 1986): 145–158.

    Measures a difference between the relative frequency of alliteration of poetic and nonpoetic words, as well as a ranking in the rate of alliteration of words when they occur in the second stressed position in the verse line; suggests alliterative rank may be used to come to a tighter definition of poetic vocabulary than by non-occurrence in prose only.

———. "Poetic Meanings in the Old English Poetic Vocabulary." *English Studies* 84 (5 2003): 397–425.

    Studies figurative uses of simplex words as evidence of poetic diction.

———. "The Poetics of Poetic Words in Old English." In *Old English Philology: Studies in Honour of R. D. Fulk*, edited by Leonard Neidorf, Rafael J. Pascual, and Thomas A. Shippey, 256–275. Anglo-Saxon Studies 31. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2016.

Dockray-Miller, Mary. "Dating Wiglaf: Emotional Connections to the Young Hero in *Beowulf*." In *Dating Beowulf: Studies in Intimacy*, edited by Daniel C. Remeiner and Erica Weaver, 304–318. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019.

    Examines an alternative heroic masculinity as embodied by Wiglaf.

Earl, James W. "Beowulf's Rowing-Match." *Neophilologus* 63, no. 2 (April 1979): 285–290.

———. "Forbidden *Beowulf*: Haunted by Incest." *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 125, no. 2 (March 2010): 289–305, 511.

———. "The Swedish Wars in *Beowulf*." *JEGP: Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 114, no. 1 (January 2015): 32–60.

    A well-written reconstruction of events.

Eliason, Norman E. "Beowulf, Wiglaf and the Wægmundings." *Anglo-Saxon England* 7 (1978): 95–105.

Frank, Roberta. "A Scandal in Toronto: The Dating of *Beowulf* a Century On." *Speculum* 82, no. 4 (2007): 843–864.

    Recapitulates the history of Beowulf *dating and deftly undermines some key arguments of those holding to an early date.*

———. "*Mere* and *sund*: Two Sea-Changes in *Beowulf*." In *Modes of Interpretation in Old English Literature: Essays in honour of Stanley B. Greenfield*, edited by Phyllis Rugg Brown, Georgia Ronan Crampton, and Fred C. Robinson, 153–172. Toronto: Toronto University Press, 1986.

    Points out the ambiguity of the words in question.

———. "Skaldic Verse and the Date of *Beowulf*." In Chase, *The Dating of "Beowulf*," 123–140.

    Gathers a range of worthwhile considerations stemming from the skaldic chronology to argue that a tenth-century origin is likely.

———. *The Etiquette of Early Northern Verse*. Conway Lectures in Medieval Studies 2010. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2022.

    A dazzling demonstration of poetic conventions beyond the structural requirements of OE and skaldic verse.

Fulk, R. D. *A History of Old English Meter*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992.

    A highly technical study of linguistic and metrical evidence for the dating of "Beowulf."

Fulk, R. D. "Afloat in Semantic Space: Old English *sund* and the Nature of Beowulf's Exploit with Breca." *JEGP: Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 104 (2005): 456–472.

A word study and review of scholarship on the question whether it concerned a rowing or swimming match.

———. "*Beowulf* and Language History." In Neidorf, *The Dating of Beowulf*, 19–36.

Sums up the metrical–linguistic evidence for an early date.

———. "Six Cruces in *Beowulf*." In *Latin learning and English Lore: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Literature for Michael Lapidge*, edited by Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe and Andy Orchard, 1:349–367. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005.

———. "Textual Criticism." In Bjork and Niles, *A "Beowulf" Handbook*, 35–53.

Sums up historical developments in approaches to the text of the poem, and makes a case for editorial guidance and against letting corrupt readings speak for themselves.

———. "The Origin of the Numbered Sections in *Beowulf* and in Other Old English Poems" 35 (2006): 91–109.

Demonstrates that the scribes were responsible for fitt numbering.

Garde, Judith N. *Old English Poetry in Medieval Christian Perspective: A Doctrinal Approach*. Cambridge: Brewer, 1991.

Suggests a catechetical, didactic purpose for the poetry, devoid of exegetical elements.

Gardner, Thomas. "The Old English Kenning: A Characteristic Feature of Germanic Poetical Diction?" *Modern Philology* 67, no. 2 (November 1969): 109–117.

Proposes influence from the (ultimately Byzantine) dialogue tradition on the figure of the kenning in Old English.

Garmonsway, G. N., and Jacqueline Simpson, trans. *"Beowulf" and its Analogues*. London and New York: Dent / Dutton, 1968.

Translates a wide range of analogous passages.

Gelling, Margaret. "The Landscape of *Beowulf*." *Anglo-Saxon England* 31 (2002): 7–11.

Recognizing that the landscape of the poem is a fantasy construct, proposes that place-name evidence may shed light on the intended environment.

Goering, Joseph W. "An Introduction to Medieval Christian Biblical Interpretation." In *With Reverence for the Word: Medieval Scriptural Exegesis in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, edited by Jane Dammen McAuliffe, Barry D. Walfish, and Joseph W. Goering, 197–203. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

A brief introduction to exegetical principles, explained for those with no relevant background.

Goldsmith, Margaret. *The Mode and Meaning of "Beowulf."* London: Athlone, 1970.

Gräslund, Bo. "*Beowulf* — The Scandinavian Background: A Summary." In *Re-Imagining Periphery: Archaeology and Text in Northern Europe from Iron Age to Viking and Early Medieval Periods*, edited by Charlotta Hillerdal and Kristin Ilves, 125–134. Oxford: Oxbow, 2020. https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv138wt08.15.

Griffith, Mark. "Extra Alliteration on Stressed Syllables in Old English Poetry: Types, Uses and Evolution." *Anglo-Saxon England* 47 (2018): 69–176.

A long article on ornamental alliteration, with complete lists of occurrences.

Grinda, Klaus R. "Pigeonholing Old English Poetry: Some Criteria of Metrical Style." *Anglia* 102 (1984): 305–322.

A collection of statistical data on the style of poems over 500 lines in length, suggesting certain groupings.

Helder, William. "The Song of Creation in *Beowulf* and the Interpretation of Heorot." *English Studies in Canada* 13, no. 3 (September 1987): 243–255.

Hiatt, Alfred. "*Beowulf* off the Map." *Anglo-Saxon England* 38 (2009): 11–40.

An influential article on geographical conceptions.

Hills, Catherine M. "*Beowulf* and Archaeology." In Bjork and Niles, *A "Beowulf" Handbook*, 291–310.

A superb collection of essays summing up the state of every aspect of "Beowulf" scholarship.

Horowitz, Sylvia Huntley. "Beowulf, Samson, David and Christ." *Studies in Medieval Culture* 12 (1978): 17–23.

Points out a striking number of parallels between the characters mentioned.

Jorgensen, Peter A. "Beowulf's Swimming Contest with Breca: Old Norse Parallels." *Folklore* 89, no. 1 (1979): 52–59.

Karkov, Catherine, and Robert Farrell. "The Gnomic Passages of *Beowulf*." *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 91, no. 3 (1990): 295–310.

An investigation into the functions of the gnomic passages.

Kaske, Robert E. "The *gifstol* Crux in *Beowulf*." *Leeds Studies in English*, n.s. 17 (1985): 142–151.

A lucid discussion of one of the poem's notorious cruxes.

Kendall, Calvin B. *The Metrical Grammar of* Beowulf. Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England 5. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Seeks to explain the rules of metre through a specifically oral-poetic, formulaic dialect acquired and adhered to subconsciously. Includes a full scansion of "Beowulf."

Kiernan, Kevin S. "The Eleventh-Century Origin of *Beowulf* and the *Beowulf* Manuscript." In Chase, *The Dating of "Beowulf,"* 9–22.

A powerful codicological argument for an 11th-century origin of the text.

Langeslag, Paul S. "Monstrous Landscape in *Beowulf*." *English Studies* 96, no. 2 (2015): 119–138.

Explains the monsters' landscape associations by two complementary routes.

Lapidge, Michael. "*Beowulf* and the Psychology of Terror." In *Heroic Poetry in the Anglo-Saxon Period: Studies in Honor of Jess B. Bessinger, Jr.* Edited by Helen Damico and John Leyerle, 373–402. Studies in Medieval Culture 32. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 1993.

———. "Old English Poetic Compounds: A Latin Perspective." In *Intertexts: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Culture Presented to Paul E. Szarmach*, edited by Virginia Blanton and Helene Scheck, 17–32. Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies 334. Tempe, AZ: ACMRS, 2008.

Argues that literate poets modelled their use of tetrasyllabic compounds after Latin conventions.

Lee, Alvin A. "Symbolism and Allegory." In Bjork and Niles, *A "Beowulf" Handbook*, 233–254.

A thorough overview of allegorical readings of "Beowulf."

Leneghan, Francis. *The Dynastic Drama of "Beowulf."* Cambridge: Brewer, 2020.

Reads the poem as centrally showcasing the life cycle of the archetypal dynasty from its founding to its failing to produce a credible successor.

Lerer, Seth. "Grendel's Glove." *ELH* 61, no. 4 (1994): 721–751.

Interprets the "glōf" and "Hondsciō" material.

Liberman, Anatoly. "Beowulf – Grettir." In *Germanic Dialects: Linguistic and Philological Investigations*, edited by Bela Brogyanyi and Thomas Krömmelbein, 353–401. Amsterdam Studies in the Theory and History of Linguistic Science 4. Amsterdam and Philadelphia, PA: Benjamins, 1986.

A detailed study particularly of the hæftmece–heptisax analogue, concluding that the two texts shared a common source.

Magnús Fjalldal. *The Long Arm of Coincidence: The Frustrated Connection between "Beowulf" and "Grettis saga."* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998.

Denies any genetic connection between the two texts.

Malmberg, Lars. "Grendel and the Devil." *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 78, no. 3 (1977): 241–3.

Emphasizes similarities between Grendel and Satan/demons in Old English literature.

Malone, Kemp. "Grendel and his Abode." In *Studia philologica et litteraria in honorem L. Spitzer*, edited by A.G. Hatcher and K.L. Selig, 298–308. Bern: Francke, 1958.

Identifies Grendel's mere as (an inlet of) seawater, and argues that Icelandic reflexes are indebted to English models.

Megginson, David. "The Case Against a 'General Old English Poetic Dialect'." In *Prosody and Poetics in the Early Middle Ages: Essays in Honour of C. B. Hieatt*, edited by M. J. Toswell, 117–132. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.

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