

Term Paper: Specifications and Suggested Topics

Assignment: Write a paper on any literary, text-critical, theological, palaeographical, source-critical, (art-)historical, linguistic, or metrical aspect of any Old Germanic biblical poetry, or on the historical connections explaining the continuum of the alliterative material between different languages.

Length: Within ten percent of 3,000 words for **M.EP.02b**; within ten percent of 6,000 words for **M.EP.05b** and **M.EP.05d**; within ten percent of 7,500 words for **B.Eng.631**; within ten percent of 48,000 characters for **M.Kom.05**. Please note that the paper length for your module has substantial implications for the appropriate choice of topic and scope.

Approval: Run at least the topic, and ideally (at a later stage) a detailed sentence outline, by your instructor for approval. (See [these slides](#) for an explanation of the appropriate sentence outline format.)

Deadline: Final term paper due on 31 March; try to have a topic by late November.

Some Possible Topics

The following lists are intended to give you an impression of the range of appropriate topics, but please do not infer that you are limited to the options listed. While you may copy out a topic directly from this list, you may prefer to come up with your own, and it is at any rate your own responsibility to formulate a research question. Remember that originality of argument (and by implication originality of research question) is a factor in the assessment of your paper (see marking grid overleaf).

- Depictions of feasting in Old English and Old Low German poetry
- Sodom in Old English and Old Low German poetry
- The intended audience of Junius 11
- The intended audience of the *Heliand*
- The plan, structure, and/or intended use of MS Junius 11
- The illustrations of MS Junius 11 and their relationship to the texts
- The selective focus of the Old English *Daniel*
- The heterodox temptation account in *Genesis B*
- Textual cruxes in the Old English *Exodus*
- The plausibility of an early medieval English identification with the Israelites of the Exodus narrative
- The innovative imagery in the Old English *Exodus*
- Reading *Beowulf*'s biblical allusions through the lens of MS Junius 11

- Old Germanic biblical poetry in the light of the liturgical calendar
- Christian and secular terminology in *The Heliand*
- The sources of the *Muspilli*
- The origin and semantics of the term *muspilli*
- Judgement Day tropes in Old English/Old Germanic prose and verse
- Shared religious terms and formulae in Old English and Old Low German poetry
- Why Old Low German poetry made it to England
- Why bundle *Judith* with *Beowulf*?

Marking Grid

The following marking grid indicates the considerations used to mark papers for this course (but not their weighting):

Aspect	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Argument (quality, originality)										
Structure										
Methodology										
Close reading & analysis										
Use of secondary sources										
Grasp of source language <i>and/or</i> analytical methods										
Command of academic English										
Mechanics (style, referencing, formatting)										
Length										