Fall 8-15-1997

ENG 5000-001

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The course: The mission of this course is impossible, or at least damned difficult. It is impossible to master Anglo-Saxon in one semester; it will be damned difficult to chew, swallow and digest all that I have set before us this semester. We will, however, try. Beowulf expects no less. By the end of the semester, I hope to have guided you to a good start on the mastery of Anglo-Saxon language and literature. I want you by then to be able to read typical A-S texts comprehensively, admittedly with grammar and glossary at hand.

I do not factor attendance into the final grade. I never have done so; I never will do so. However, each week we will cover considerable ground. I of course will allow makeups will appropriate excuses. (These matters I am more or less required to cover.) As you note from the schedule of assignments, there will be an mid-term exam, a comprehensive translation and critical analysis of a specific text and a comprehensive final. I will provide detailed instructions-guidance at appropriate times. I will never try to surprise you. The mid-term and the final will count 30% each; the translation-analysis will count 40%.

Week 1  8-26  Orientation-introduction
Week 2  9-2   Bright's Ch 1, 6, 7
Week 3  9-9   Bright's Ch 9, 10, 12
Week 4  9-16  Bright's Ch 13, 14, 15
Week 5  9-23  Bright's Ch 17, 18, 19
Week 6  9-30  Bright's Ch 20, 21, 22; selection of text for translation-analysis
Week 7  10-7  Bright's 23, 24, 25, 26
Week 8  10-14 Mid-term examination
Week 9  10-21 Beowulf (consistently about 300 lines per week)
Week 10 10-28 Beowulf; first draft of translation-analysis due
Week 11 11-4  Beowulf; conferences
Week 12 11-11 Beowulf
Week 13 11-18 Beowulf; second draft due
Week 14 12-2  Beowulf; conferences
Week 15 12-9  Beowulf; final draft due

Comprehensive final examination