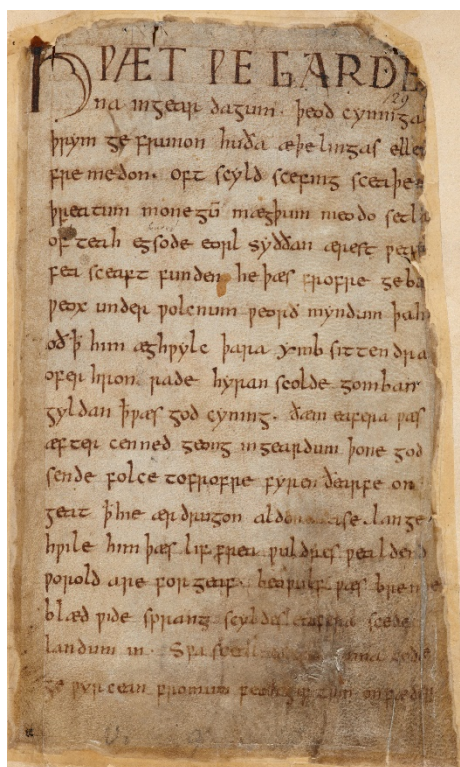


## ENGL 340: Introduction to Old English Language

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London, British Library, MS Cotton Vitellius A xv, fol. 132r.

Source: [http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=cotton\\_ms\\_vitellius\\_a\\_xv\\_f132r](http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=cotton_ms_vitellius_a_xv_f132r), via Wikipedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beowulf\\_Cotton\\_MS\\_Vitellius\\_A\\_XV\\_f.132r.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Beowulf_Cotton_MS_Vitellius_A_XV_f.132r.jpg). Accessed 22 May 2019.

### Course description:

In ENGL 340, we'll explore the English language as it was written before the Norman French conquered England in 1066. Grammar will be presented 'in action' via samples of Old English prose and poetry, such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the writings of King Alfred and Ælfric of Eynsham, the Exeter Book Riddles, and *Beowulf*. We'll also consider aspects of Anglo-Saxon history, culture, archaeology, and place names. Old English is an 'undead' language, with us and not with us; for example, the OE noun *wyrd* survives as our word 'weird' even if it no longer has its original meaning of 'fate'. And the name of the Yorkshire village of Netherthong is close enough to Modern English to make us chuckle, but it really just means 'lower strip of arable land'. After a semester's study, the language, literature, culture, and history of Anglo-Saxon England will look much less weird.

### Proposed assignments:

5 quizzes:	30%
5 in-class activities (based on material in textbook):	10%
Short essay:	15%
Two in-class exams, weighted at 25% and 15%:	40%
Class participation:	5%

### Proposed texts:

Murray McGillivray, *A Gentle Introduction to Old English*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2011. Companion website: <http://www.oegrammar.ca/>

Murray McGillivray, ed. *Old English Reader*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2011.