**English 50**

**First Assignment**

**Old English Manuscript Study**

**DUE: Midnight, September 8, 2020 on CANVAS**

**600-800 word essay**

In the following list, our Old English readings are followed by the medieval manuscript(s) in which they are written and preserved to this day. You may choose any ONE of the following manuscripts for your study:

**Cædmon’s Hymn**

“Leningrad Bede”, St. Petersburg, Saltykov-Schedrin Public Library Manuscript Q.v.I.18

Oxford, Bodleian Library Tanner 10

Oxford, Bodleian Library, Tanner 43

Oxford, Corpus Christi College 279B

Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 41

Cambridge, University Library Kk.3.18

Cambridge, University Library Kk.5.16

British Library Cotton Tiberius C.ii

**Wanderer, Seafarer, Wulf and Eadwacer**

The Exeter Book, ”Codex Exoniensis”, Exeter Cathedral Library Manuscript 3501

**Dream of the Rood**

The Vercelli Book, Vercelli Capitulary Library (Biblioteca Capitolare di Vercelli) Manuscript CXVII

**Beowulf**

“The Nowell Codex”, British Library Manuscript Cotton Vitellius.A.xv

Please look up your manuscript on-line and find as much information as you can about it. Write up a description of this manuscript and try to answer the following questions. Because these manuscripts are so old, we do not always know the answer to all of these questions, but see what you can find:

1. What language is this manuscript written in?
2. When was it written?
3. Where was it written?
4. Who composed the work(s)? (i.e. the author)
5. Who copied the manuscript? (i.e. the scribe)
6. Can you find a name for the type of script it is written in?
7. What material is it written on?
8. How many folios (pages) in the manuscript?
9. What is the folio (page number) of the poem you are looking for?
10. Can you find a facsimile of the poem itself? If so, please attach it as a screen shot to your project. If you cannot find the actual poem, include an image of a different page of the manuscript.
11. What other works (if any) are found in the manuscript?
12. Who owned the manuscript before it made its way to its current library?
13. Where is the manuscript housed today? How did it arrive at its current location?
14. When was the manuscript first published in a modern version (i.e. after 1700)?
15. Anything else interesting or relevant that you find.

This is meant to be a treasure hunt. I will start a Discussion Thread where you can pose any problems or questions.