

Topic Suggestions: Early English Literature

Proposals are due November 17th. These proposals should be approximately 150 words in length and should clearly articulate the critical problem your paper will address. Additionally, you will need at least three relevant and reputable secondary sources and brief descriptions of how you might use these sources to make your argument (brief annotations).

Following is a list of topic suggestions. This list is by no means exhaustive but simply serves to give you a few ideas. Certainly, you can develop one of the short writing assignments into a research paper, if you choose.

1. a reading of "Wulf and Eadwacer"
2. the common denominators in the elegies
3. riddling and kennings in Anglo-Saxon literature
4. the heroic code of "Beowulf"
5. women in "Beowulf"
6. heroic language in "The Dream of the Rood"
7. battle boasting (in "The Battle of Maldon" and/or "Beowulf")
8. elements of romance in "King Horn"
9. exile and elegy
10. medieval society and Langland's "fair field of folks"
11. Langland and the Seven Deadly Sins
12. the heroic code in "Lanval" and "Sir Launfal"
13. romance parodies: the loathly ladies
14. tournaments and the mock tournament in "The Tournament of Tottenham"
15. the nativity and "The Second Shepherd's Play"