Final Research Assignment
ENGL 3335: Ancient and Medieval Literature: Augustine and Boethius
Dr. Brian McFadden
Due 11:59 PM, December 8, 2023, via email

The final project will consist of TWO parts:

1) An annotated bibliography with eight to ten scholarly **secondary** sources that center around a current issue in the study of Augustine, Boethius, and/or medieval British literature affected by these thinkers. You may go back into the scholarship about the issue as far as you want if there is a key text that everyone seems to cite, but *you must use at least six items published in the last 10 years.* Secondary source: a scholarly text that examines the original literary material we read in class (which is the primary source).
2) A four- to five-page essay explaining how you see your position on the issue in light of your research.

Example of an annotated bibliography entry:

McFadden, Brian. "Sleeping after the Feast: Deathbeds, Marriage Beds, and the Power Structure of
         Heorot." *Neophilologus* 84 (2000): 629-646. Print.

Notes that previous examinations of the power structure of Heorot focus on reversal, loss of strength, and avoidance of pride, but fail to examine specific events of the narrative, its context, and the powerful role of Wealhtheow. Examines the changes of power in the poem from both a military and sexual viewpoint and argues that the poet signals significant changes in the power structure of Heorot through the use of the words *bed, ræst/reste*, or a compound including one of these elements. My project examines how *Beowulf* fits into a Boethian paradigm by examining *wyrd* as the course of events, not a deterministic fate, and how the actions of Beowulf, Grendel, and Grendel's mother, while influenced by the past, still depend on their choice of response to the events of the present narrative.

Rules for picking secondary sources:

1) No more than one website source – I want to make sure you all get into the library (physically or virtually). Choose sources carefully online – I prefer discussion sites or scholarly sites to fan sites, movie sites, or simple descriptive sites. Think about the evaluation of reliable online sources you were taught in your comp classes. **Databases like Project Muse, Ebsco Host, or JSTOR are repositories of documents originally in print and their contents can be treated as print. However, if you use an online version of a print journal, check the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook* or the *Chicago Manual of Style* for online citation format.**
2) No more than two sources from any one collection of essays – I want to make sure you read a diversity of sources.
3) Note that the last sentence of the bibliographic entry (underlined above) deals with the importance of this source to your overall project and topic.
4) No dissertations, theses, or research papers: published academic works only.
5) No reviews or short notes: full-length articles, essays, or books only. Reviews are summaries themselves that evaluate a secondary source but don't necessarily make an argument; notes usually illustrate a highly specific point but not a larger issue.
6) Primary texts do not count as sources – i.e. I want eight books, articles, websites, etc. ABOUT our Latin, Old English, or Middle English works, not these original texts themselves.
7) Format: The annotations in the annotated bibliography should be single-spaced and should have a space between the publication information and the annotation. They should be between 100 and 200 words in length (the example above is 136 words, for comparison). The bibliographic information should appear in either MLA or Chicago style format (Works Cited page format), and with a hanging indent.