Beowulf and its analogues

In groups of three or four, please present for 15 minutes on Beowulf and its relationship to Scandinavian, Irish or Biblical analogues, or to the other texts in the Nowell Codex. You might consider such questions as:

• What are the shared features of these texts?
• Do the similarities between the texts change your understanding of Beowulf?
• How useful are analogues to the study of Beowulf?

General secondary sources

Bruce, Alexander. Scyld and Scef: Expanding the Analogues (New York, 2002).

Scandinavian analogues

Niles, John D. Beowulf and Lejre (Tempe, Ariz., 2007).

Irish analogues

Especially chapter III, ‘The Irish Elements in Beowulf’
Puhvel, Martin. Beowulf and the Celtic Tradition (Waterloo, ON, 1979).

Biblical analogues

---. ‘The Christian Language and Theme of Beowulf’ in Companion to Old English Poetry, ed. Aertson and
Bremmer (Amsterdam, 1994), 63-77.

The Nowell Codex (the Beowulf-manuscript)

Kiernan, Kevin S. Beowulf and the Beowulf Manuscript (Ann Arbor, 1996).
   Especially chapter 2, ‘Manuscript and Text’

A facsimile of the Nowell Codex is also available in the Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile series, edited by Kemp Malone (Copenhagen, 1963).
Beowulf (/ˈbeɪəwÊŠlf/; Old English: BĒowulf) is an Old English epic poem consisting of 3,182 alliterative lines. It is one of the most important works of Old English literature. The date of composition is a matter of contention among scholars; the only certain dating pertains to the manuscript, which was produced between 975 and 1025. The anonymous poet is referred to by scholars as the "Beowulf poet".