Paper Ideas for medieval Germanic literature:

**Literature**

Any particular Anglo-Saxon poem or Viking saga (see your Bradley textbook p. 553 et passim for complete list of known Anglo-Saxon poems).

**Viking Paganism**

--Seidr (Women's Magic)
--Shamanist and Totemistic Influences (cf. Odin’s ravens, Freyr and boars, etc.)
--Dwarf Curses
--Runic Charms

**Viking Magic**

--Hof (Viking buildings used as cult centers)
--Viking Eschatology: Ragnarok, Valhalla, Niflheim

**Viking Loanwords into English**

Linguistic Distinctions Among the Germanic Language

Viking loanwords into English

**Linguistic Features of the Germanic Language Family**

Anglo-Saxon Rhymes

Women in the Viking Age

Poeitic Techniques: Prosopopoeia, Skaldaparma, Hattatal and verse-forms

Poets: Skalds, Sceops,

**Genre Conventions of . . . .**

--the Sagas
--the Elegies
--the Chronicles
--the Riddles
--the Charms
--the Saints’ Lives

A specific symbol in [pick a work]
A specific character and characterizatin in [pick a work]
A specific narrative structure in [pick a work]
A specific literary theory applied to [pick a work]

--Gender Studies
--Feminist Criticism
--Archetypal Criticism
--New Criticism/Formalism
--Structuralism
--Poststructuralism
--Deconstruction
--Postcolonialism
--Biographical/Traditional Criticism
--Psychoanalytic Criticism
--Hermeneutics
--Phenomenology
--Semiotics
--Comparative Literature
--Intertextual Studies
--New Historicism
--Marxist Criticism/Materialist Criticism
--Reception Theory
--Reader Response Theory

**Space and Landscape in the sagas**

The Index of Folklore Motifs applied to Viking/Anglo-Saxon literature

Medieval Romance as an influence on late thirteenth-century Germanic literature

Pazifal and Germanic adaptations of Arthurian Grail legends.

**Viking Eschatology: Ragnarok, Valhalla, Niflheim**

Hof (Viking buildings used as cult centers)

**Viking Cosmology:** Yggdrasil--the World Tree, Urð, Ginnungagap, Midgard and Míøgarðsormr the World Serpent, ---Jötnheim, Bifrost Bridge, the creation account as ideology

**Viking Myths**

--Aesir versus Vanir
--Valkyries
--Giants
--Dwarves
--Trolls and Troll-wives
--Ghosts
--Additive Creatures:
--The Norns: Urðr, Verðandi, Skuld
--Alfar
--Huldr-Maids

**Germanic Mystics in Old English Literature**

--Weiland the Smith
--Sources and Analogues of Anglo-Saxon literature

**Anglo-Saxon Monsters**

--Bestiaries, The Physiologus
--Dragons
--Trolls
--The Wonders of the East
--Sea Monsters
--Phoenix
--Satan/Demons in Anglo-Saxon Biblical accounts

**Myths outside the Prose Edda:** Pymnsvíð, the Elder Eddas, SaxoGrammaticus, etc.

Shamanism and Viking Cultures

**Anglo-Saxon Magic Charms**

Conversion Narratives

--Adam of Breman’s accounts of Pagan sites
--Rimbart’s Vita Anskarri (Life of Ansgar)
--Anne-Sofie Gråslund’s arguments about women and Christianity and Viking reactions

**Missionaries in Scandinavia**

--Willibrord, bishop of Utrecht
--Evidence for rapid or slow process of conversions


**Historical Viking Activites:**

The Varangian Guard

Martyrdom of Saint Edmund: Viking Accounts versus Christian Accounts

Viking Raids and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

**Battle of Maldon**

The Danelaw

Vikings in Russia

Viking settlements in Jarvik (York), Dublin, Landnám in Iceland, Colonization in Greenland

Viking conquests in Scotland, Wales, Ireland (Dublin), York

Anglo-Saxon defenses against Vikings under Alfred the Great

**Viking Naval and Military Technology**

Longboats
Ironworking
Architecture

**Scandinavia and the Laplanders**

Old Norse Society and the Saami Tribes

Vikings and Picts: Assimilation or Genocide in the Hebrides?

Symbolism and Ideology as Revealed in Viking Art Images, Animal Ornaments, etc.

**Structuralist Readings of Norse Myth**

Archetypal Readings of Norse Myth

**Viking Rune Stones**

Outlaws

--Gisli
Politics:
Things and Althing, Icelandic government, democracy in medieval Iceland
Viking Kings:
--Svein Forkbeard
--Harald Bluetooth
--Haraldr Finehair
--King Gorm
--Olaf Tryggvason
--Ivar the Boneless
Viking Kings and Snorri Sturluson’s Heimskringla

Viking Heroes:
--Eric Bloodax
--Eirik the Red

Travel Narratives and Historical Accounts
Gregory of Tours accounts of Danish invasions in History of the Franks (c. 515-20)
Tacitus’ accounts of the Germanic Tribes
Pliny the Elder’s Naturalis Historia (c. 79) and his account of Scandinavia
--Ohthere the Norwegian merchant’s journey to King Alfred’s court

Archeological Digs of Viking Sites in Norway, Sweden, Iceland
--Isle of Samso
--Danevirke
--Trelleborg
--Fyrkat
--Nonnebakken
--Aggersborg
--Viking Burial Sites
--Fakes and forgeries in America

Archeological Digs of Anglo-Saxon Sites in Sutton Hoo
Anglo-Saxon or Old Norse Riddles
The Comitatus or Warband

Vikings Interpreted in Later Centuries
Reader-Response Theory, Reception Theory and Adaptations/Re-readings of Viking Culture in the Renaissance, Victorian Period:
Orm’s Monuments of the Danes, Richard Wagner’s opera cycles, William Morris’ epic poems like Sigurd the Volsung, William Collingwood’s 19th century historical novels, as propaganda imagery in World War II, fantasy-adaptations like Neil Gaimon’s American Gods, etc.

Manuscript Studies
"Pointing" (proto-punctuation) in Anglo-Saxon texts
Paleography/Codicological studies