SCAND 340: Kalevala  
Response Paper #1  
Writing Prompts

Answer one of the questions below in a 2-3 page paper, typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Please examine the criteria for evaluation of writing laid out in the syllabus in drafting and editing your paper.

1. What “counsel” does the Kalevala offer, in Benjamin’s sense? Drawing on analysis of “The Storyteller” essay and a reading of a particular poem in the Kalevala, make an argument about the counsel offered by the Kalevala.

2. Who are the characters of the Kalevala? Choose one of the characters of the Kalevala as the focus of your analysis, and make an argument about what kind of character he or she is. Your paper should identify two or three key traits of the character, but also explain why you think those traits are significant to the Kalevala.

3. What is the Sampo? Drawing on one of the theories of the Sampo touched upon in class, use evidence from the Kalevala and other sources you may choose to present an argument that answers this age-old question.