

**CCR 199Y1Y-LEC0041**  
**The Vikings and their Descendants**  
*Wednesday 2–4; Trinity Larkin 340*

*Course Description:* The Scandinavian pirates known as ‘the Vikings’ first entered the annals of recorded history in the late eighth century of the common era. The impression that they made on the civilized people whom they encountered was overwhelmingly negative: Vikings were depicted by their contemporaries as bloodthirsty pagans, ferocious and crafty warriors with a diabolical ability to raid and pillage nearly anywhere throughout the then-known world. Modern scholars of the Early Middle Ages have developed more nuanced perspectives on the Vikings by studying their material culture, the stories and poems that they recited in their halls and later wrote down, and by evaluating their accomplishments as explorers, pioneers and agents of commerce. The legacy of the Vikings’ activities can be traced in the historical development of present-day Scandinavian nations, and contributes to the heritage of the peoples of Britain, continental Europe, the Mideast and even the Atlantic coast of Canada. Aspects of Viking culture have—for better *and* worse—inspired modern artists, writers, composers, intellectuals, explorers and even politicians, and the image of the Viking persists in present-day literature, art, music, sport and popular culture. This course explores the history, cultures and literatures of the Viking Age, and considers how (and why) the Viking past remains a part of present culture.

**Fall Term 2014: The Vikings in History.**

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| <b>10 September</b> | <b>Course overview: the world of the Vikings</b><br>Study supplement: map #1.<br>Reading for week 2: Guy Halsall, “The Sources and their Interpretation”, Chapter 3 of <i>The New Cambridge Medieval History, Volume I (c. 500 – 700)</i> , pp. 56 – 90.                                 |
| <b>17 September</b> | <b>Sources for studying the Vikings.</b><br><i>Map quiz</i> #1.<br>Study supplement: Rune handout.<br>Reading for week 3: <i>TV4</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 2 – 16; Chapter 2, pp. 18 – 27, 38 – 40.   |
| <b>24 September</b> | <b>Early Medieval Scandinavia: the lands, the seas and the people.</b><br><i>Rune quiz</i> .<br>Reading for week 4: <i>TV4</i> , Chapter 4, pp. 76 – 92; 96 – 106.   |
| <b>1 October</b>    | <b>The spiritual practices of early Scandinavians.</b><br>Reading for week 5: <i>TV4</i> , Chapter 7, pp. 193 – 204, 214 – 17; Jan Bill, “Viking Ships and the Sea”, Chapter 11 of <i>The Viking World</i> (Stefan Brink and Neil Price, eds., New York: Routledge, 2008), pp. 170 – 80. |
| <b>8 October</b>    | <b>Early Medieval ships and nautical culture.</b><br><i>RESEARCH TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE.</i><br>Study supplement: Viking-age nautical architecture.<br>Reading for week 6: <i>TV4</i> , Chapter 6, pp. 159 – 63; 168 – 92.   |
| <b>15 October</b>   | <b>The warrior culture of the Viking Age.</b><br>Study Supplement: map 2.<br>Reading for week 7: <i>TV4</i> , Chapter 8 (compare <i>TV4</i> excerpts from <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> 789 – 850/1 with entries printed in <u>English Historical Documents</u> , vol. I, pp. 180 – 8).   |

22 October	<b>Power, politics and piracy in Early Medieval Europe: the age of raiding.</b> <i>Map quiz # 2.</i> Reading for week 8: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 10.
29 October	<b>Norse contact and commerce with the Slavs, Byzantium and the Near East (seminar meeting at the ROM).</b> Reading for week 9: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 9.
5 November	<b>Viking conquest, settlement and assimilation in Western Europe.</b> <i>Student presentations</i> ; “Rulers of the Viking Age” Handout. Reading for week 10: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 14, 433 – 57; Chapter 7, pp.204 – 214 (“Olaf Tryggvasson at the Battle of Svold”).
12 November	<b>Commerce, conquest and kingdom-building in Scandinavia</b> <i>Student presentations</i> ; “Rulers of the Viking Age” quiz. Reading for week 11: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 42 – 74 (“The Life of Anskar”).
19 November	<b>Changing old gods for new: Christianity and kingdom-building in Scandinavia.</b> <i>Student presentations.</i> Reading for week 12: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 11, pp. 329 – 43, 346 – 57; Chapter 13, pp. 417 – 20.
26 November	<b>Western exploration and the settlement: Iceland, Greenland and Vinland.</b> <i>Student presentations</i> ; <i>RESEARCH ESSAY DUE.</i> Reading assignment for Week 1, Winter Term: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 5.

#### Winter Term 2015: Depictions of the Vikings from the Middle Ages to Modern Times.

7 January	<b>Prizes and peace-weavers, slaves and shield maidens: depictions of women in Viking-Age society.</b> <i>View and review a Viking-themed movie (see filmography, below).</i> Reading for week 2: <i>TVA</i> , pp. 106 – 124; 360 – 2.
14 January	<b>Viking attitudes toward life, death and un-death.</b> <i>Movie review due.</i> Reading for week 3: Snorri Sturluson, <i>Skaldskaparmal</i> .
21 January	<b>The poetic past: setting the Viking Age in verse.</b> <i>Write a Skaldic verse, due in next class.</i> Reading for week 4: <i>TVA</i> , Chapter 13, 400 – 8, 409 – 16, 423 – 31.
28 January	<b>Snorri and Saxo: early Scandinavian historians of the Viking Age.</b> <i>Skaldic verse due.</i> Reading for week 5: <i>Egil's Saga</i> , chapters 1 – 30.
4 February	<b><i>Egil's Saga I</i>: establishing patterns and problems in the past.</b> <i>Article summary paper due in next class.</i> Reading for week 6: <i>Saga</i> , chapters 31 – 55.
11 February	<b><i>Egil's Saga II</i>: Egil grows up.</b> <i>Article summary paper due.</i> Reading for week 7: <i>Saga</i> , chapters 56 – 71.
25 February	<b><i>Egil's Saga III</i>: poetry, piracy and patriarchy.</b> <i>FINAL PROJECT TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE</i> Study aid: <i>Map #3</i> Reading for week 8: <i>Saga</i> , chapters 72 – 90.

4 March	<b><i>Egil's Saga</i> IV: a Viking's end?</b> <i>Map Quiz #3.</i> Reading for week 9: T. Pugh and A. J. Weisl, <i>Medievalisms</i> , pp. 1 – 11.
11 March	<b>Medievalism and the Vikings.</b> <i>Student presentations.</i> Reading for week 10: A. Kolodny, <i>In Search of First Contact</i> , pp. 103 – 50.
18 March	<b>Viking heritage, real and imagined.</b> <i>Student presentations.</i> Reading for week 11: Saxo Grammaticus, <i>The History of the Danes</i> , pp. 275 – 97; view any episode of the television series <i>Vikings</i> , and come prepared to discuss its depiction of the Viking Age with the class.
25 March	<b>The Vikings and <i>Vikings</i>: critical comparisons.</b> <i>Student presentations.</i> Activity for week 12: discover a contemporary artifact of Viking-inspired culture for discussion in final seminar meeting.
1 April	<b>Finding 'Viking artifacts' in the Twenty-first century.</b> <i>Student presentations; CULTURAL ANALYSIS ESSAY DUE.</i>

### Course Policies

#### Required Textbooks:

Most of the required readings for the course are published in *The Viking Age: a Reader* (referred to in the course schedule above as 'TVA'), edited by Angus Somerville and R. Andrew McDonald (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010). In Winter Term, we will also read the following Norse saga:

- Scudder, Bernard, trans., Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir, ed. *Egil's Saga*. London: Penguin Books, 2002.

Additional required readings will include excerpts from the following books:

- Brink, Stefan, ed., *The Viking World*. London: Routledge, 2008.
- Davidson, H. E., ed., and Peter Fisher, trans. *Saxo Grammaticus: The History of the Danes, Books I – IX*. Woodbridge, U.K.: D. S. Brewer, 1979.
- Kolodny, A. *In Search of First Contact: the Vikings of Vinland, the Peoples of the Dawnland, and the Anglo-American Anxiety of Discovery*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2012.
- Pugh, T., and Angela Jane Weisl. *Medievalisms: Making the Past in the Present*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Sturluson, Snorri. *Edda*. Trans. Anthony Faulkes. London: J. M. Dent, 1987.

Assigned readings from these and other reference works will be posted to the course website or distributed in class.

#### Course Grade:

The primary focus of this course is participation in a shared seminar experience; therefore, the greatest single component of your grade will be based on your regular attendance and *active, productive participation in class discussions*. You will also be evaluated on your performance on a series of in-class quizzes and a number of short written assignments (reading response essays, a film review, an article summary paper, presentation critiques and an original poem). In addition, in each term you will prepare and deliver a 5–10 minute presentation to the class on a chosen topic, proposed by you and approved by the instructor, which will also be the basis of a 6–12-page term paper. In Fall Term your topic should be related to the study of the history of Viking-age Europe; in Winter Term your topic should be related to Viking culture and/or the *reception* of Viking culture in the later medieval or modern eras. Term project papers will be due at the final seminar meeting of each term.

The breakdown of the grade for the course will be as follows:

Attendance and participation	25%
Response essays, etc.	15%
Quizzes	15%
Poetry assignment, article summaries and media review	15%
Presentations	15%
Term project papers	15%
Total	100%

### **Policies re. late work:**

Written assignments are due at the *beginning of class* on the specified due date; **work submitted after this time will be subject to a 5% grade reduction. Grades on assignments submitted later than the calendar day on which the work is due will be reduced by an additional 5% *per calendar day* for each day that the assignment is delayed**, so plan ahead and turn in your work on time!

It is *only* appropriate to request an extension for an assignment due date under extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances (for example: a death in the family, a serious illness, etc.). In such cases, you should inform me of your particular circumstance as soon as possible and may request an extension for the assignment in question (n.b., under some circumstances I may ask you to provide documentary verification, such as a doctor's note, etc.).

Except under exceptional circumstances I WILL NOT EVALUATE ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY: **you MUST submit a hard copy of your work for evaluation.**

### **Academic Integrity:**

The following statement on academic integrity is from the Academic Handbook of the Faculty of Arts & Science, Part 2, Appendix C, Fall 2007. It has been slightly edited.

“Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students

- To use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism
- To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work.
- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment (n.b., this includes unauthorized 'collaboration' on assignments).
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work.
- To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes.
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.”

In addition to reading the University’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

(<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>), you should also read “How Not to Plagiarize” (<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>).

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH AND OBSERVING THESE STANDARDS;** ignorance is NOT an acceptable excuse for breaches of academic integrity.

### **Writing and Language Learning Support:**

The website "Writing at the University of Toronto" ([www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca)) provides resources and practical advice on all aspects of academic writing. Each college in the University of Toronto hosts a Writing Centre where students may consult with writing specialists for advice and instruction. College Writing Centres throughout the University of Toronto are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>; the Trinity College Writing Centre is located in Room 302 of the Gerald Larkin Building. All students enrolled in this Trinity-sponsored 199Y seminar are entitled to make use of this valuable resource! To make an appointment with the Trinity College Writing Centre, go to the Writing Centres webpage and use the Trinity College Writing Centre link.

The University of Toronto also offers the English Language Learning (ELL) Program to help multilingual students achieve the standard of English required for top academic work. Courses and activities provided through the program are conducted by specialist university instructors and are free and non-credit. Native speakers of English who wish to improve their communication skills are also welcome to participate. Information about ELL is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. Students enrolled in 199Y seminars may particularly benefit from the program’s series of “Communication Cafes”, which focus on language and skills needed to participate in academic discussions and presentations: for a schedule and list of topics, use the “Communication Cafes” link on the Program webpage (above). The ELL Program also offers free, online academic writing instruction via the Reading eWriting activity. To register, contact the ELL Coordinator at [ell.newcollege@utoronto.ca](mailto:ell.newcollege@utoronto.ca).

## THE VIKINGS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

### [A] Select Bibliography

- Almgren, Bertil, et al. *The Viking*. Gothenburg, Sweden: Tre Tryckare, Cagner and Co., 1966.
- Brink, Stefan, ed., *The Viking World*. London: Routledge, 2008.
- Davidson, H. E., ed., and Peter Fisher, trans. *Saxo Grammaticus: The History of the Danes, Books I – IX*. Woodbridge, U.K.: D. S. Brewer, 1979.
- Foote, Peter, and Wilson, David M. *The Viking Achievement: The Society and Culture of Early Medieval Scandinavia*. Sidgwick and Jackson Great Civilizations Series. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990 [London: Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd., 1980].
- Graham-Campbell, James. *The Viking World*. New Haven: Ticknor & Fields, 1980.
- Graham-Campbell, James, and Kidd, Dafydd. *The Vikings*. London: British Museum, 1980.
- Haywood, John. *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings*. London: Penguin Books/Viking, 1995.
- Helle, Knut, ed. *The Cambridge History of Medieval Scandinavia I: Prehistory to 1520*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Jones, Gwyn. *A History of the Vikings*, rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.
- Jesch, Judith. *Women in the Viking Age*. Woodbridge, U.K.: Boydell and Brewer, 1991.
- Jochens, Jenny. *Women in Old Norse Society*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995.
- Klindt-Jensen, Ole, and Wilson, David M. *Viking Art*, second edition. The Nordic Series 6. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980.
- Kolodny, A. *In Search of First Contact: the Vikings of Vinland, the Peoples of the Dawnland, and the Anglo-American Anxiety of Discovery*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2012.
- Page, R. I. *Chronicles of the Vikings: Records, Memorials, and Myths*. London: British Museum Publications, 1995.
- Pugh, T., and Angela Jane Weisl. *Medievalisms: Making the Past in the Present*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Pulsiano, Phillip, Kirsten Wolf, et al., ed. *Medieval Scandinavia: an Encyclopedia*. Garland Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages 1. New York and London: Garland, 1993.
- Sawyer, Peter, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Vikings*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Scudder, Bernard, trans., Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir, ed. *Egil's Saga*. London: Penguin Books, 2002.
- Somerville, Angus A., and R. Andrew MacDonald, ed. *The Viking Age: A Reader*. University of Toronto Press, 2010.
- Sturluson, Snorri. *Edda*. Trans. Anthony Faulkes. London: J. M. Dent, 1987.

### [B] Online resources for studying the Viking Age.

#### General

- ASNaC 1 [<http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/resources/research/scan-history.htm>]; excellent list of resources on Scandinavian history from the Cambridge Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic.
- ASNaC 2 [<http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/resources/research/old-norse.htm>]; excellent list of resources on Old Norse language and literature from the Cambridge Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic.
- Viking Exhibition 2000 [<http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/>]; Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC.
- Viking Heritage [<http://vikingheritage.eu/vikingheritage/home.html>]; (under development).

#### Denmark

- Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church: [[http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id\\_site=697](http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id_site=697)], description and information about this World Heritage Site.
- Museet Ribes vikinger [[http://www.ribesvikinger.dk/UK\\_html/framesgb.html](http://www.ribesvikinger.dk/UK_html/framesgb.html)], with information about the excavations in Ribe and much else.
- Ribes Viking Centre [<http://www.ribesvikinger.dk/English.aspx>].
- Roskilde Viking Ship Museum [<http://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/>].
- The Skuldelev ships [<http://www.abc.se/~m10354/uwa/skuldelev.htm>].

#### Iceland

- The Saints in Iceland [<http://www.tasc.mpg.de/iceland/>]; database of information connected with saints' cults preserved in medieval Icelandic church records.

#### Norway

- Lofotr Viking Museum [[http://www.lofotr.no/engelsk/en\\_index.htm](http://www.lofotr.no/engelsk/en_index.htm)].
- Midgard [<http://www.midgardsenteret.no/>], cultural heritage centre near Borre.

- University of Oslo Viking Ship Museum [[http://www.khm.uio.no/vikingskipshuset/index\\_eng.html](http://www.khm.uio.no/vikingskipshuset/index_eng.html)].
- Nidaros Cathedral and the Archbishop's palace [<http://www.nidarosdomen.no/nb-NO/>].
- Archaeology in the North [<http://arkeologi.blogspot.com/>], Frans-Arne Stylegar's archaeological weblog, with electronic texts of his articles on aspects of Norwegian archaeology, some in English.
- University of Oslo Kaupang project [<http://www.kaupang.uio.no/eng/index.html>].

#### Sweden

- Foteviken Museum [[http://www.foteviken.se/engelsk/index\\_e.htm](http://www.foteviken.se/engelsk/index_e.htm)], near Malmö, Sweden.
- Fröjel Discovery Project, Gotland University [<http://www.hgo.se/frojel/>], cultural heritage centre at a Viking-Age harbour on Gotland. Includes images and background information on Viking-Age commerce.
- Historiska Museet Vikings Exhibit Page [<http://www.historiska.se/home/exhibitions/vikings/>].
- Sigtuna Museum [<http://195.190.203.17/museer/>].
- Swedish National Heritage Board [[http://www.raa.se/cms/en/places\\_to\\_visit.html](http://www.raa.se/cms/en/places_to_visit.html)], with pages on Birka and Hovgarden, Ottar's Mound, and the Rök stone.
- Slöinge [[http://hem.passagen.se/lalu0144/ia\\_home.htm](http://hem.passagen.se/lalu0144/ia_home.htm)], a central place site in Halland, from the fifth- to tenth-centuries.

#### British Isles

- York Archaeological Trust [<http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/>], including access to the Jorvik Viking Centre [<http://www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/>] and the York Archaeological Trust Picture Library [<http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/piclib/photos.php>].
- Orkneyjar [<http://www.orkneyjar.com/index.html>], Orkney heritage site.
- Vale of York Hoard (Portable Antiquities Scheme Database): [<http://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/198978>].

#### Normandy

- The Normans [<http://www.norman-world.com/angleterre/index.htm>], information, bibliography, images.

[C] Select Viking-Themed Filmography

*Asterix et les Vikings* (2006 [85 mins]).  
*Beowulf* (dir. Graham Baker, 1999 [93 mins]).  
*Beowulf*, performed by Benjamin Bagby (2006 [98 mins]).  
*Beowulf* (dir. Robert Zemekis, 2007 [114 mins]).  
*Beowulf and Grendel* (dir. Sturla Gunnarsson, 2006 [104 mins]).  
*Erik the Conqueror* (dir. Mario Bava, 1961 [90 mins]).  
*Erik the Viking* (dir. Terry Jones, 1989 [79 mins]).  
*Hrafninn Flýgur: The Raven Flies* (dir. Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, 1984 [103 mins]).  
*Pathfinder* (dir. Marcus Nispel 2007 [107 mins]).  
*The Last of the Vikings* (dir. Giacomo Gentilomo, 1961 [103 mins]).  
*The Long Ships* (dir. Jack Cardiff, 1964 [125 mins]).  
*The Norseman* (dir. Charles B. Pierce, 1978 [90 mins]).  
*The Outlaw (Útlaginn)* (dir. Ágúst Guðmundsson, 1981 [100 mins]).  
*The 13th Warrior* (dir. John McTiernan, 1999 [103 mins]).  
*The Tartars* (dir. Richard Thorpe, 1961 [83 mins]).  
*The Virgin Spring* (dir. Ingmar Bergman, 1960 [89 mins]).  
*A Viking Saga: Son of Thor* (dir. Michael Mouyal, 2008 [82 mins]).  
*The Viking* (dir. Roy William Neill, 1928 [90 mins]).  
*The Vikings* (dir. Richard Fleischer, 1958 [116 mins]).  
*The Viking Sagas* (dir. Michael Chapman, 1995 [83 mins]).  
*Vikings* (television series, Octagon Films and Take 5 Productions, 2013 - present)  
*The Warlord* (dir. Franklin Schaffner, 1965 [121 mins]).

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