

The Vikings: Sources and Contexts

Course Outline and *Pensum*

Autumn 2017, NOFI 200-300

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This course analyses the primary sources relating to the Viking Age, from the late 8th century to the early 11th century. Through a study of the sources, we will analyse, amongst other things, the social institutions of the Viking Age, the conversion to Christianity, trade, warfare, and the impact the Vikings had on European history as a whole. Students can expect to read Old Norse texts in the original, runic inscriptions in the original, and primary sources written in other medieval/classic languages in translation.

Course Requirements

Presentation - Each student will be required to give a presentation. The presentations should be 20 minutes long. The topics will be discussed in class. Each presentation should be accompanied by a handout or powerpoint.

Written Assignment - Each student should please complete a written assignment of minimum 750 words (more words are welcome, maximum 2000). Further details to come.

Course Outline – *note this is subject to updating*

1. Introduction; the sources of the Viking Age.
2. The Scandinavian States
3. The Expansion
4. The People: Slaves and the Free
5. Royal Power, Authority and Administration
6. Daily Life
7. Trade and Towns
8. Transport
9. Warfare

10. Art and Ornament

11. Justice

12. Religion

13. Summary and Conclusion

Pensum (reading list) – to be updated.

The main book for the course will be by the Swedish historian Anders Winroth, *The Age of the Vikings* (Princeton University Press, 2014).

At the beginning of the course, a booklet will be available from the lecturer containing the relevant primary sources for the course and further reading lists.