SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2014-2015

HI502J Old Norse I: Language, Literature and Culture

30 Credits, First Half Session

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Hannah Burrows — Email: hannah.burrows@abdn.ac.uk — Room: CB506
— Phone: 272739

Additional contributions will be from Stefan Brink, Michael Gelting and Lisa Collinson

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
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history-ug@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
Please refer to the online timetable on MyAberdeen

Students can view the University Calendar
at  http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/13891.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Old Norse is the direct ancestor of modern Norwegian, Swedish, Danish,
Icelandic and Faroese. It was the lingua franca of Viking-Age Scandinavia, and
had a lasting impact on the development of the English language. It was also
the primary literary language of the Scandinavian Middle Ages, notably the
Icelandic sagas and skaldic and eddic poems. It is, hence, the gateway to a
fuller understanding of mediaeval Scandinavia, the “Latin” of the North. This
course will provide the basic linguistic tools needed to read Old Norse texts,
and some background about the history of the language and its links with
other languages. No prior knowledge of Old Norse is assumed.

This course uses Old Norse literature, in particular the sagas and Eddas, to
introduce aspects of early Scandinavian culture, including literature and pre-
Christian religion.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course aims to introduce students to Old Norse language by reading real
Old Norse texts; to introduce students to the breadth of Old Norse literature
in translation and issues regarding their literary and historical value.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:
• Read basic Old Norse texts with the aid of a dictionary and grammar
• Demonstrate a knowledge of the breadth and subjects of a broad range of
Old Norse literature
• Critically evaluate Old Norse texts for their literary and/or historical value
• Use Old Norse literature as sources for explaining the cultural world of early Scandinavia

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
(Classes begin in week 1 and consist of a two-hour language seminar and a one-hour lecture/seminar covering aspects of early Scandinavian society and culture. A programme and reading list for the latter will be drawn up in consultation with students at the start of term and made available on MyAberdeen.

The language classes will cover the basics of Old Norse grammar and offer you the opportunity to practice translation, both prepared and unseen. In-class tests will be given throughout the term with plenty of notice. Some of these will be formative, designed to show the kind of exercise involved and to give you feedback on your progress. Some will also be summative and will in addition count towards your final mark (40% in total).

SET TEXT
A New Introduction to Old Norse (Viking Society), vols. 1-3
http://vsnrweb-publications.org.uk. Hard copies can be purchased from Hannah.

Further readings will be advised in class and on MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT
1. In-class tests and translation exercises (40%)
2. 4000-word essay due in week 12 (60%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen – Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Taught Postgraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

ESSAYS
Essays should be between 4000 and 4500 words long, including quotations (but not translations of quotations also given in Old Norse) and footnotes, but not including the bibliography. The essay topic must be agreed with the course coordinator. The topic can cover any aspect within the scope of the course but may not overlap with any assessment elements in other parts of the programme.)
IN-CLASS TESTS
The in-class tests comprise 40% of the total mark and will test you on grammar and translation skills. Formative sample tests will be given in advance of any summative assessment.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
The essay is due on Thursday 1 December at 3.00pm.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Please submit by the deadline ONE paper copy (cover sheet required) PLUS, ONE official electronic copy (no cover sheet required) as follows:

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy typed and double spaced, together with an Assesment cover sheet – this should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Admin Office [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (For instructions please see [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)) Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Viking Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date

**Please note:** Failure to submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin and a hard copy to the school office, by the stated deadline, will result in a zero mark.
N.B Turnitin doesn’t accept Mac documents in Pages. If using a Mac please go to File and export work as a Word document.