SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI502J Old Norse I: Language, Literature and Culture

30 credits: 11 weeks

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

Co-ordinator: Dr Hannah Burrows (hannah.burrows@abdn.ac.uk)
Room 506, 50-52 College Bounds
Office hours: by email appointment

Other members of the teaching team: Prof. Ralph O’Connor (r.oconnor@abdn.ac.uk).

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
01224 272199/272454
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can view their university timetable at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.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 medieval Scandinavia, the “Latin” of the North.

This course is divided into two strands. First, it will provide the basic linguistic tools needed to read Old Norse texts. (No prior knowledge of Old Norse is assumed.) Second, it will explore Old Norse literature in translation, in particular eddic poetry and sagas, and consider its links with various aspects of early Scandinavian culture.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to introduce students to Old Norse language by reading real Old Norse texts and 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 a source for explaining the cultural world of early Scandinavia

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Classes begin in week 1. The course consists of ten two-hour language seminars and five two-hour lecture/seminars covering aspects of early Scandinavian society and culture. There will also be opportunities for essay consultation. A programme and reading list 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 practise 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 TEXTS


Online PDFs are available at http://www.vsnrweb-publications.org.uk/. Please consult the course co-ordinator for advice about purchasing hardcopies.

*Alternative editions of these texts are acceptable for this course.*

**ASSESSMENT**

1. In-class tests and translation exercises (40%)
2. 4000-word Essay (60%)

To view the CGS Descriptors (assessment criteria) please go to MyAberdeen-Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Essay due **Thursday 22 November, 3pm**

**IN-CLASS TESTS**

The in-class tests comprise 40% of the total mark and will test you on basic grammar and translation skills.
ESSAYS

Essays should be 4000 words long (+/- 10%) including quotations 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.

Quotations from primary sources must be given in the original language and translations provided. Translations may be your own or from published sources, properly referenced, and do not count towards the word count. Students may be penalised if their work is excessively long or excessively short (i.e. more than 10% longer or shorter than the specified word count).

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one official electronic copy to TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Paper Copy: One paper copy, typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number clearly written on the cover sheet, with NO name or signature but EVERYTHING ELSE completed, including tutor’s name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes 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/ ) 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 HI502J 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. HI502J Essay 1.
Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.