SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-2017

HI552J: OLD NORSE 2: LANGUAGE, RUNES AND PLACE NAMES

30 credits. 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Postgraduate 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

Course co-ordinator  Dr Lisa Collinson  l.a.collinson@abdn.ac.uk
Team  Professor Stefan Brink, Dr Lisa Collinson

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Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
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history-ug@abdn.ac.uk
TIMETABLE

Language classes  Tues 10-12  Taylor C19
Lectures  Thurs 10-11  Taylor C19

Students will be notified of any changes by email or through MyAberdeen

Students can view their university timetable at

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops students' Old Norse skills by reading more complex texts such as skaldic and eddic poetry, runes and unnormalised Old Norse texts. Poetry and runes give a fascinating insight into the Old Norse world before the introduction to Christianity and during the Conversion period which is not represented by unbiased prose works. In addition, students will gain a basic insight into runology and toponymy, and will be presented with the latest positions in research in these fields.

INTENDED aims and LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to develop intermediate Old Norse skills by reading and translating Old Norse texts, and to introduce students to the use of linguistic phenomena (especially runes and place names) for understanding the pre-literary world of Scandinavia.
By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Read complex Old Norse texts with the aid of a dictionary and grammar and critically evaluate translations
- Demonstrate an understanding of issues relating to the analysis and interpretation of runes and place names
- Analyse poetic, runological and onomastic phenomena for their value in understanding the society and culture of pre-literary Scandinavia.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Classes begin in week 1 and consist of a two-hour language seminar each week, and a one-hour lecture/seminar most weeks.

Further details will be given in class and posted on MyAberdeen

ASSESSMENT

- In-class tests and translation exercises (40%)
- 4000-word essay (60%)

Work will be graded according to the University of Aberdeen Common Grading Scale, using criteria known as ‘CGS Descriptors’. To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen - Organisations - Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.
ESSAYS

Essays should be between 4000 and 4500 words long, including quotations and footnotes. Essay topics must be related to the course, and agreed with the course coordinator. Students are especially encouraged to write on a runological or toponym topic, or one directly related to the texts or ideas studied in the language classes. Direct quotations from primary sources should be in the original language, with accompanying translations. Translations may be original, or taken from published scholarly works.

EXERCISES

Details to be discussed in class and posted on MyAberdeen

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay 3pm Friday 24th March
Exercises Details to be discussed in class and posted on MyAberdeen

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 Assessment 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](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/). (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.