

HI552J : OLD NORSE II: LANGUAGE, RUNES AND PLACE-NAMES

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

Dr. Triin Laidoner, Email: s04tl8@abdn.ac.uk (office hours by appointment)

Dr. Hannah Burrows, Email: hannah.burrows@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

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 – an insight 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%)

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Taught Postgraduates**.

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.

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, IF APPLICABLE

Details will be given in class.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay deadline: 3pm, Friday, 29th of March

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 HI552J 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. HI552J 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.