



# HIST\*3520 The Vikings: Early Medieval Encounters

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of History

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 06, 2020

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

This course explores the topic of the Vikings in early medieval culture (700 - 1100). The focus will include the role of violence in early medieval society, the construction of the 'Other', as well as medieval and modern historiography. It provides students with enhanced knowledge of early medieval Europe, the Byzantine Empire and Russia.

**Pre-Requisites:** 7.50 credits including (HIST\*2000 or HIST\*2200)

### 1.2 Course Description

The Vikings! These fierce, raiding explorers from the north have been mythologized for hundreds of years, but their infamy has complicated our understanding of their contributions to medieval Europe. Focusing on the analysis and interpretation of primary sources, this course will explore the narratives that have shaped the history, landscape and people of Northern Europe for more than a millennia.

The course will begin with an investigation of the "Viking Age" as a distinct time period, followed by an examination of the geography of the Vikings, and the provocative question of Viking identity. Modern conceptions of colonialism and authenticity, as well as the use and bias of different types of evidence, such as textual, archaeological and linguistic, will be discussed throughout the three units, encouraging students to question various representations of Viking history.

This class will follow a mixed lecture and discussion format enhanced by various media, including film and map studies. All readings must be done before the day of the discussion for students to actively engage in class activities.

## 1.3 Timetable

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30-12:50 in MCLN 101**

**Course schedule is subject to change. Please consult WebAdvisor for the latest information.**

## 1.4 Final Exam

The final examination will include short answer and essay questions, to be taken during the exam period.

Exam Date: Monday, April 6 8:30 - 10:30 am

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# 2 Instructional Support

## 2.1 Instructional Support Team

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| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Amy Beingessner   |
| <b>Email:</b>        | beingesa@uoguelph.ca  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>    | 519-824-4120 ext. 52837   |
| <b>Office:</b>       | MCKNEXT 1007  |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, or by appointment |

Room 1007 Mackinnon extension

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# 3 Learning Resources

## 3.1 Required Resources

**A. A. Somerville and R. A. McDonald, The vikings and their age (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013). (Textbook)**

**A. A. Somerville and R. A. McDonald (eds.), The Viking Age: a reader, Third edition (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019). (Readings)**

**Articles available electronically on Courselink and through the library (Other)**

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Think critically and creatively about the Viking Age and the primary sources pertaining to it
  2. Analyze and evaluate historical and present-day images of Vikings and their historical validity
  3. Develop an informed view of the cultural and physical landscape of early medieval Europe
  4. Engage with the central issues, research approaches, and practices of history as a discipline
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

### 5.1 Lecture

#### Week 1

##### Topics:

Jan. 6

Welcome to HIST\*3520

Introduction to the "Viking Age"

Jan. 8

Timelines of the Viking Age

**Reading:** Somerville Text, Chapter 1, "The Viking Age: An Overview" pg. 1-3, Somerville Text "Chronology" pg. 141-145

#### Week 2

##### Topics:

Jan. 13

How do we know what we think we know? Textual sources of the Viking Age

**Reading:** Somerville Text, Chapter 4 “How Do We Know About the Vikings?” pg. 85-117

Jan. 15

Archaeology and other evidence

**Reading:** Vésteinsson “Archaeology of Economy and Society”

### Week 3

**Topics:**

Jan. 20

Viking Age society and culture

**Reading:** Somerville Text, Chapter 2, “Society and Religion in the Viking Age” pg. 39-56

Jan. 22

Norse mythology and Christian Vikings

**Reading:** Somerville Text Chapter 2, “Society and Religion in the Viking Age” pg. 56-66

### Week 4

**Topics:**

Jan. 27

Economy and trade

**Reading:** Kruse “Trade and Exchange”

Jan. 29

Technology

**Reading:** Hennis "Viking Age Tar Production"

## Week 5

### Topics:

Feb. 3

We the North? Origins, geography and movement in the Viking Age

**Reading:** Somerville Text, Chapter 1, "The Viking Age: An Overview" pg. 3-14

Feb. 5

Continuity and disruption in Viking Age Scandinavia

**Reading:** Abrams "Early Medieval Europe"

## Week 6

### Topics:

Feb. 10

Viking expansion in Britain and Ireland (Part 1)

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 7, "Sudden and Unforeseen Attacks of Northmen" pg. 204-210 (entries 37, 38 & 39) and pg. 218-224 (entries 43 & 44)

Feb. 12

Viking expansion in Britain and Ireland (Part 2)

**Reading:** Atwood "Vikings in Ireland"

## Week 7

### Topics:

Feb. 24

**No Class** - Take home mid-term exam due.

Feb. 26

Vikings in the East

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 9, "Austrveg: The Viking Road to the East"

pg. 275-288 (entries 57, 58 & 59) and pg. 294-300 (entries 61 & 62)

## Week 8

### Topics:

Mar. 2

Vikings in France and continental Europe (Part 1)

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 7, "Sudden and Unforeseen Attacks of Northmen" pg. 224-239 (entries 45, 46 & 47)

Mar. 4

Vikings in France and Continental Europe (Part 2)

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 7, pg. 242-244 (entry 48), Chapter 8, "The Heathens Stayed" pg. 268-272 (entry 56)

## Week 9

### Topics:

Mar. 9

Iceland and the West (Part 1)

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 10, "Into the Western Ocean" pg. 305-328

Mar. 11

Iceland and the West (Part 2)

**Reading:** Wallace "L'Anse Aux Meadows"

## Week 10

### Topics:

Mar. 16

Vikings in popular imagination: 1700-1900

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 15, "Reawakening Angantyr" pg. 471-487 Nelson "England and the Continent"

Mar. 18

Vikings in popular imagination: Twentieth Century

**Reading:** Somerville Reader, Chapter 15, "Reawakening Angantyr" pg. 488-506

## Week 11

### Topics:

Mar. 23

Viking ethnicity and DNA

**Reading:** Downham "Viking Ethnicities"

Mar. 25

Nationalism and Viking identity

**Reading:** Skully "Remediating Viking Origins"

**Week 12****Topics:**

Mar. 30

Who were the Vikings?

April 1

Course wrap-up and exam preparation

## 6 Assessments

Detailed information and guidance relating to these assignments and the participation mark will be discussed in class and posted on CourseLink.

Assignments are due, uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on CourseLink, no later than the specified date/time. Assignments submitted late will be penalized three percentage-marks per day.

**Note:** In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

### 6.1 Assessment Details

**Primary Source Analysis (10%)****Due:** Fri, Jan 31, 11:55 PM**Midterm Exam (Take Home) (20%)****Date:** Wed, Feb 12, 1:00 PM - Mon, Feb 24, 1:00 PM**Major Project (20%)****Due:** Fri, Mar 13, 11:55 PM

Students will choose *one* of the two major project concepts to be submitted by Friday, March 13, 2020.

**Project 1: Viking Social Media Profile**

This project will include the creation of a fictional social media profile of a Viking.



## **Project 2: How to Train Your Dragon Analysis**

This project requires students to read the first book in Cressida Cowell's *How to Train Your Dragon* series and to write an analysis of its portrayal of Viking history and identity.

### **Class Contribution (15%)**

**Date:** Assessed across semester

### **Final Exam (35%)**

**Date:** Monday, April 6 8:30 - 10:30 am, TBA - please continue to check webadvisor for location information

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## **7 Course Statements**

### **7.1 Course Policies**

Assignments are due, uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on CourseLink, no later than the specified date/time.

Assignments submitted late will be penalized three percentage-marks per day.

## **8 University Statements**

### **8.1 Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### **8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### 8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### 8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## 8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

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