

# The Vikings – In History, Saga, and Myth

Fall 2018, HONORS 380, TuTh 10:35-11:50, Honors 142

Prof. Andersen, Honors Hall 130D, 335-7694

[kimander@wsu.edu](mailto:kimander@wsu.edu), <http://public.wsu.edu/~kimander/>

<b>Week 1</b>		<b>Questions/Topics/Presenters</b>
Tu Aug 21	Introductions.	The Viking Age, course requirements
Th Aug 23	<i>The Civilization of the Middle Ages</i> , Norman Cantor (a selection; on Blackboard)	Historical context Group presentation sign-up
<b>Week 2</b>		
Tu Aug 28	Graham-Campbell: "Background to the Viking Age," p. 10-19 (on Blackboard)	The Viking Age Group presentation sign-up
Th Aug 30	Byock: Medieval Iceland, p. 1-30 (on Blackboard)	<b>Presentation 1:</b> _____ & _____ Literature and society
<b>Week 3</b>		
Tu Sep 4	<i>The Tale of Thorstein Staff-Struck</i> (on Blackboard)	<b>Presentation 2:</b> _____ & _____ Q: Is there a central theme in this tale? <b>Reading response 1:</b> Which observation on the Viking age and its context, in our readings so far, do you consider most interesting, and why? (due Tu, Sep 4, in hard copy)
Th Sep 6	<i>The Saga of the People of Laxardal</i> , Introduction, ix-xl	Background/contexts
<b>Week 4</b>		
Tu Sep 11	<i>The Saga of the People of Laxardal</i> , Chpts. 1-33, pp. 3-68	<b>Presentation 3:</b> _____ & _____ Q: Does a plot emerge? Who are the central characters?
Th Sep 13	Jørgensen: "Political Organization and Social Life," 72-85 (on Blackboard)	Social organization.
<b>Week 5</b>		
Tu Sep 18	<i>The Saga of the People of Laxardal</i> , Chpts. 34-49, pp. 68-117	<b>Presentation 4:</b> _____ & _____ Q: What do you see as the central theme of this saga?
Th Sep 20	<i>The Saga of the People of Laxardal</i> , Chpts. 50-78, pp. 118-174	<b>Reading response 2:</b> Which single scene/event/person stands out the most to you so far in <i>Laxardal</i> ? Why? (due Th, Sep 20, in hard copy)
<b>Week 6</b>		
Tu Sep 25	Christensen: "Ships and Navigation," 86-97 (on Blackboard) Video: "The Viking Ship"	<b>Presentation 5:</b> _____ & _____ Google 'Viking ship museum Oslo' and 'Roskilde'

# The Vikings – In History, Saga, and Myth

Fall 2018, HONORS 380, TuTh 10:35-11:50, Honors 142

Prof. Andersen, Honors Hall 130D, 335-7694

[kimander@wsu.edu](mailto:kimander@wsu.edu), <http://public.wsu.edu/~kimander/>


Th Sep 27	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 1</b>	<b><u>Paper #1 due Thursday, September 27, in hard copy in class.</u></b>
<b>Week 7</b>		
Tu Oct 2	Graslund: "Religion, Art, and Runes," 55-71 (on Blackboard)	<b>Presentation 6:</b> _____ & _____ Myth
Th Oct 4	Snorri Stuluson's <i>Prose Edda</i> , read <b>Prologue</b> (on Blackboard) <a href="http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/pre/">http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/pre/</a>	<b>Presentation 7:</b> _____ & _____ Q: How would you describe Snorri's worldview? Give examples!
<b>Week 8</b>		
Tu Oct 9	<b>Voluspa</b> – Poetic Edda (on Blackboard) <a href="http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/poe/poe03.htm">http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/poe/poe03.htm</a>	<b>Presentation 8:</b> _____ & _____ Q: What are some central themes of these poems? Identify with quotations.
Th Oct 11	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 2</b>	<b>Reading response 3:</b> What are the essential features or dominant factors explaining Viking social life and their 'religious' culture? (due Th, Oct 11, in hard copy)
<b>Week 9</b>		
Tu Oct 16	Orkneyinga Saga, Introduction, pp. 9-19 + Chpts. 1-32, pp. 23-76	<b>Presentation 9:</b> _____ & _____ Q: What genre? Fiction – history?
Th Oct 18	Orkneyinga Saga, Chpts. 33-56, pp. 76-102	<b>Presentation 10:</b> _____ & _____
<b>Week 10</b>		
Tu Oct 23	Orkneyinga Saga, Chpts. 57-76, pp. 103-142	<b>Presentation 11:</b> _____ & _____
Th Oct 25	Orkneyinga Saga, Chpts. 77-112, pp. 142-224	Q: Overall perspective on the saga -? A key moral/lesson to the story? <b>Reading response 4:</b> Choose two characters from <i>Orkneyinga Saga</i> , explain how they relate to each other, their importance, why you chose them. (due Th, Oct 25, in hard copy)
<b>Week 11</b>		
Tu Oct 30	The legacy of Rome.	Historical overview.
Th Nov 1	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 3</b>	<b><u>Paper #2 due Tuesday, November 1, in hard copy in class.</u></b>
<b>Week 12</b>		
Tu Nov 6	R. Fleming: "Monastic Lands and	<b>Presentation 12:</b> _____ & _____

# The Vikings – In History, Saga, and Myth

Fall 2018, HONORS 380, TuTh 10:35-11:50, Honors 142

Prof. Andersen, Honors Hall 130D, 335-7694

[kimander@wsu.edu](mailto:kimander@wsu.edu), <http://public.wsu.edu/~kimander/>

	England's Defense in the Viking Age," pp. 247-265 (on Blackboard)	
Th Nov 8	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 4</b>	
<b>Week 13</b>		
TU Nov 13	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 5</b>	
Th Nov 15	Class cancelled.	Work on final paper. <b>Reading response 5:</b> Discuss your view of the series "Vikings." Do you consider it a realistic depiction? Why/why not? (due Th, Nov 15)
	<b>Thanksgiving break</b>	November 19-23
<b>Week 14</b>		
TU Nov 27	A. Pearson: "Piracy in Late Roman Britain: a Perspective from the Viking Age," pp. 337-350 (on Blackboard)	<b>Presentation 13:</b> _____ & _____ The Roman legacy to Britain and the Vikings Q: What is this article attempting to do?
Th Nov 29	Saxo Grammaticus: Ragnar Lothbrok, Book IX (on Blackboard)	<b>Reading response 6:</b> What is your perspective: was Germanic piracy also a significant disruptor to the Romans? (due Th, Nov 15, in hard copy)
<b>Week 15</b>		
TU Dec 4	<b>"Vikings" – History Channel, episode 6</b>	
Th Dec 6	Summary, Perspectives	Q: What have we learned of the ways of mankind? List your top-three.

**Final paper due Wednesday, December 12, 5 p.m. in the Honors Office.**

# The Vikings – In History, Saga, and Myth

Fall 2018, HONORS 380, TuTh 10:35-11:50, Honors 142

Prof. Andersen, Honors Hall 130D, 335-7694

[kimander@wsu.edu](mailto:kimander@wsu.edu), <http://public.wsu.edu/~kimander/>

ƒ	u	þ	ǣ	ᚱ	<	X	ƿ
fehu	uruz	þurisaz	ansuz	raipō	k	g	w
wealth	aurochs	giant	god	riding	kaunaz	gebō	wunijō
					ulcer	gift	joy
h	n	i	j	ī	p	z	s
hagalaz	naupiz	isa	jera	eihwaz	perþ	algiz	sōwulō
hail	need/hardship	ice	year/harvest	yew tree	luck	sedge (?)	sun
t	b	e	m	l	ng	d	o
teiwaz	berkana	ehwaz	mannaz	laguz	inguz	dagaz	ōþila
the god Tyr	birch twig	horse	man	water	the god Ing	day	inherited land

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/runic.htm>



Odin and Sleipnir depicted on the Tjängvide Stone  
(<https://www.tor.com>)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orkneyinga\\_saga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orkneyinga_saga)