

CMHI 209: VIKINGS
Winter 2007

Instructor: Michael Jones

Office: 102 Pettengill Hall

The Vikings were the most feared and perhaps misunderstood people of their day. Savage raiders branded as the Antichrist by their Christian victims, the Vikings were also the most successful traders and explorers of the early Middle Ages. The Viking Age lasted for three centuries (800-1100 AD) and their world stretched from Russia to North America. Study of the myth and reality of Viking culture involves materials drawn from history, archaeology, mythology, and literature.

Required Readings (*Available at the College Bookstore*)

- Peter Sawyer, The Oxford Illustrated History of the Vikings
- Else Roesdahl, The Vikings, rev. ed.
- R. I. Page, Chronicles of the Vikings
- John Haywood, Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings
- Robert Cook, Njal's Saga
- M. Magnusson and Hermann Pálsson, The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America

Reserve Readings for Paper (*Bates Library*)

Basic Primary Sources

- Terry (trans.), Poems of the Elder Edda PT7234.E5
- Sturluson, Prose Edda PT7313.E5
- Saxo Grammaticus, History of the Danes (2 vols.) DL147.52713
- Sturluson, Heimskringla PT7277.E5L3
- Whitelock (ed.), English Historical Documents Vols. 1 and 2 DA26.E5S v. 1, v. 2

General Surveys

- Sawyer, Age of the Vikings DL65.S25
- Graham-Campbell, Cultural Atlas of the Viking World DL65.C84
- Jones, History of the Vikings DL31.J6
- Sawyer, Kings and Vikings DL65.S254
- Jesch, Women in the Viking Age DL65.J47

Reference

- Medieval Scandinavia (an encyclopedia) DL30.M43

Grades

Exams (2)	40%
Papers (2)	40%
Discussion	10%
Instructor's Discretion	10%

Study Group

We will organize into fixed small groups that will meet regularly for at least one hour per week outside of class.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Jan.	9	Introduction <u>Film</u> : Hammer and the Raven	(Roesdahl 3-5; Haywood 5; Page 231)
	11	Sources	(Sawyer, 225-249; Page 6-39; Roesdahl 9-22, 46-51, 168-184; Haywood 78-79, 94-95)
	16	Scandinavia Before the Vikings	(Roesdahl 25-29; Haywood 16-20, 22-25; Page 40-57)
	18	Kings and Kingdoms	(Roesdahl 64-77; Haywood 20-21, 28-35)
	23	Ships and Travel <u>Film</u> : Viking Ships	(Sawyer 182-201; Roesdahl 78-93; Haywood 40-41)
	25	Trade and Agriculture	(Roesdahl 94-128; Haywood 36-39, 42-43)
	30	Viking Society	(Roesdahl 30-45, 52-63; Page 105-138, 139-181)
Feb.	1	Viking Expansion Overseas <u>Film</u> : Bolt from the Blue	(Sawyer 1-18; Page 77-91; Roesdahl 187-194, 129-146; Haywood 8-11, 46-55, 84-85)
	6	Viking Invasions: The Frankish Empire	(Sawyer 19-47; Haywood 56-61, 64-65, 80-83; Roesdahl 195-209)
	8	Viking Invasions: England <u>Film</u> : England at Bay	(Sawyer 48-82; Roesdahl 233-261; Haywood 62-63, 66-71; Loyn (xerox) 1-20)
	13	Viking Invasions: The Celtic World <u>Film</u> : Bitter is the Wind	(Sawyer 83-109; Roesdahl 210-232; Haywood 72-77)
	15	Work on Papers * 1st paper due in my office 4:00 p.m.	
		WINTER RECESS	
	27	Exam	
Mar.	1	Vikings East: Russia and Byzantium	(Sawyer 134-155; Roesdahl 277-292; Page 93-104; Haywood 100-109)

- 6 Viking Colonization: Iceland
Film: Isle Called Thule (Sawyer 110-133; Roesdahl 262-269; Haywood 86-95; Page 58-76; begin Njal's Saga)
- 8 Vikings in the North Atlantic
Film: Ultimate Outpost (Roesdahl 270-276; Haywood 96-99; Page 92-93; Vinland Sagas 7-43)
- 13 Vinland Sagas (Vinland Saga 49-104)
- 15 Women in Viking Society (Review Roesdahl 59-61; Haywood 44-45; continue Njal's Saga)
- 20 Reading Day (Work on Njal's Saga)
- 22 Njal's Saga
- 27 Njal's Saga
- 29 Viking Religion (Sawyer 202-224; Roesdahl 147-167; Haywood 26-27, 132-133; Page 182-230)
- Apr. 3 End of the Viking Age
Film: Empire of the Northern Seas
* **2nd paper due in class** (Sawyer 156-181; Roesdahl 295-297; Haywood 110-123)
- 5 End of the Viking Age
Film: Here King Harold is Killed (Sawyer 250-261; Haywood 124-131)