

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Department of Germanic Languages

GERM 51 *The Viking Age* Fall, 2005

Lecture: Monday-Wednesday, 12.00–12.50pm, Fetzer Gymnasium, Room 109

Recitation: Thursday, 12.30–1.20pm, Dey Hall 403
Thursday, 2.00–2.50pm, Dey Hall 403
Friday, 12.00–12.50pm, Gardner Hall 307
Friday, 2.00–2.50pm, Dey Hall 403

NB! You must be enrolled for both lecture *and* a recitation. Students who are enrolled for only one will be dropped from the class.

Instructors: **Paul T. Roberge**
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Texts: *The Sagas of the Icelanders: A Selection.* Viking/Penguin (abbreviated SI).

Sturluson, Snorri. *The Prose Edda: Tales from Norse Mythology.* Trans. Jean I. Young. University of California Press.

Njal's Saga. Translated by Robert Cook. Penguin.

Sturluson, Snorri. *King Harald's Saga: Harald Hardradi of Norway.*
Translated by Magnus Magnusson and Hermann Palsson. Penguin.

Optional background readings:

Else Roesdahl. 1998. *The Vikings.* Translated by Susan M. Margeson and

Kirsten Williams. 2nd edition. Penguin. (On reserve, House Undergraduate Library.)

Introductory sections in SI and other texts, as indicated on class schedule.

You can also find a number of maps shown during lecture in John Hayward. 1995. *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings*. London and New York: Penguin. (On reserve, House Undergraduate Library.)

Requirements: Students are expected to have read **all** the assigned readings.
four in-class examinations (60%)
final examination (30%)
regular class attendance and participation in recitations (10%)

Attendance: Regular attendance is a student obligation. You should prepare the assigned reading before each class and take notes during lecture. All material presented in lecture and recitation is “fair game” for tests, quizzes, and examinations. If you must be absent, we expect you to let us know where you were or will be. We are not unreasonable in this matter, but we do consider chronic absenteeism a serious matter that will be reported to your academic dean and reflected in your grade. If you do miss a class, you are still responsible for the readings and material covered that day. Except in the event of a documented illness or personal emergency, you are on your own if you miss class.

We further reserve the right to give quizzes (announced or unannounced) if we feel these are indicated (particularly if it becomes evident that people are not doing the assigned readings).

Make-ups: Pre- and postponement of tests and exams is possible only in exceptional circumstances, as defined by University regulations. Personal convenience does not constitute an “exceptional circumstance,” so coordinate your activities and travel plans with the syllabus. Please note further that the final examination for GERM 51 is to be held on **Saturday, December 17**, which is the last day of the examination period. The University policy on final examinations stipulates the following: *When students are unable, for reasons clearly beyond their control, to take a final examination at the scheduled time, they can be excused only by the director of Student Health Service or their academic dean. An absence may be excused only for significant physical or emotional illness, or for serious personal or family problems.*

Honor Code: Strictly enforced. By enrolling in this class, you warrant that you have read and understand your obligations under the Honor Code (<http://honor.unc.edu/> and <http://instrument.unc.edu/>).

Class Schedule

Note: The instructors reserve the right to make minor adjustments to this schedule as in their judgment best meet the needs of the class.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
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Week 1

Wed., Aug. 31	The Vikings: An introduction	
Thurs./Fri., Sept. 1–2	Recitations	<i>Edda</i> , pp. 23-28

Optional background readings: Introduction to *Edda*, SI, pp. 7-13

Week 2

Mon., Sept. 5	Cosmogony	<i>Edda</i> , pp. 29-50
Wed., Sept. 7	Cosmogony	<i>Edda</i> , pp. 50-78
Thurs./Fri. Sept. 8–9:	Recitations	<i>Edda</i> , pp. 78-93

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 148-58

Week 3

Mon., Sept. 12	***Test***	
Wed., Sept. 14	Language and writing	<i>Egil's saga</i> , SI, pp. 8-50, ch. 1-30
Thurs./Fri. Sept. 15–16	Recitations	<i>Egil's saga</i> , SI, pp. 51-94, ch. 31-42

Optional background readings: SI, pp. 3-7, Roesdahl, pp. 46-51

Week 4

Mon., Sept. 19	Viking society: the social order	<i>Egil's saga</i> , SI, pp. 95-119, ch. 43-62
Wed., Sept. 21	Viking society: gender roles	<i>Egil's saga</i> , SI, pp. 120-48, ch. 63-77
Thurs./Fri. Sept. 22–23	Recitations	<i>Egil's saga</i> , SI, pp. 148-84, ch. 78-90

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 52-61

Week 5

Mon., Sept. 26	***Test***	
Wed., Sept. 28	Viking society: rules of conduct	<i>Laxdæla saga</i> , SI, 270-300, ch. 1-18
Thurs./Fri. Sept. 29–30	Recitations	<i>Laxdæla saga</i> , SI, 300-336, ch. 19-35

Optional background readings: Roesdahl, pp. 62-63, SI, pp. 270-75

Week 6

Mon., Oct. 3	Political structures and power	<i>Laxdæla saga</i> , SI, 336-70, ch. 36-48
Wed., Oct. 5	ships and maritime activity	<i>Laxdæla saga</i> , SI, 370-400, ch. 49-66
Thurs./Fri. Oct. 6–7	Recitations	<i>Laxdæla saga</i> , SI, 400–421, ch. 67-78

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 64-77, 78-93

Week 7

Mon., Oct. 10 ***Test***
Wed., Oct. 12 *University Day, no class*
Thurs./Fri. Oct. 13–14 Recitations *Hrafnkel's saga*, SI, 436-462

Optional background reading: SI, 436-37

Week 8

Mon., Oct. 17 Viking economies "Thorstein Shiver," SI, 716-17
Wed., Oct. 19 urbanization "Audun," SI, 717-22,
Thurs./Fri. Oct. 20–21 Fall break, no class

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 94-146

Week 9

Mon., Oct. 24 feuds and feuding *Njal's saga*, 3-34, ch. 1-17
Wed., Oct. 26 Christianization *Njal's saga*, 34-76, ch. 18-44
Thurs./Fri. Oct. 27–28 Recitations *Njal's saga*, 76-105, ch. 45-63

Optional background readings: Roesdahl, pp. 158-67, Introduction to *Njals saga*, pp. vii-xxxiii

Week 10

Mon., Oct. 31 art and poetry *Njal's saga*, 105-35, ch. 64-82
Wed., Nov. 1 law and legal structures *Njal's saga*, 136-67, ch. 83-97
Thurs./Fri. Nov. 2–3 Recitation *Njal's saga*, 168-98, ch. 98-118

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 168-84

Week 11

Mon., Nov. 7 Viking expansion: Western Europe *Njal's saga*, 198-233, ch. 99-133
Wed., Nov. 9 Viking expansion: Iceland *Njal's saga*, 234-69, ch. 134-44
Thurs./Fri. Nov. 10–11 Recitations *Njal's saga*, 270-310, ch. 145-59

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 187-209

Week 12

Mon., Nov. 14 ***Test***
Wed., Nov. 16 Viking expansion: Greenland *Saga of the Greenlanders*,
Thurs./Fri. Nov. 17–18 Recitations *Eiriks saga* (SI, 636-74)

Optional background reading: SI, 626-35

Week 13

Mon., Nov. 21 Viking expansion: North America “Tale of Sarcastic Halli,” SI, 694-712
Wed., Nov. 23 Viking legacies: Fakes and frauds “Thorstein Staff-Struck,” SI. 677-84
Thurs./Fri. Nov.24–25 Thanksgiving recess, no class

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 262-76

Week 14

Mon., Nov. 28 Viking expansion: Scotland, Ireland, *King Harald*, 45-76, ch. 1-28
Wed., Nov. 30 Viking expansion: England *King Harald*, 77-107, ch. 29-58
Thurs./Fri. Dec.1–2 Recitations

Optional background reading: Roesdhal, pp. 233-61

Week 15

Mon., Dec, 5 Viking expansion: The East *King Harald*, 107-33, ch. 59-76
Wed., Dec. 7 End of the Viking Age *King Harald*, 133-66, ch. 77-101
Thurs./Fri. Dec.8–9 Recitations: wrap-up, evaluation

Optional background reading: Roesdahl, pp. 277-92

*****FINAL EXAMINATION: Saturday, December 17 at 12.00 noon*****