



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1RK040 Fornnordisk mytologi och religion, en introduktion, 7,5
högskolepoäng

Old Norse mythology and religion, an introduction, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Religious Studies

Subject Group

Religious Studies

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2017-09-06

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2018

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- in general terms account for mythology and religious practice in Old Norse religion as manifested in written and archaeological source material,
- exemplify how Old Norse religion interacted with other religions in the Iron Age (for example Roman, Celtic and Sami religion),
- apply basic source criticism on material used in studies of Old Norse religion,
- problematise interpretations of source material on Old Norse religion,
- discuss and problematise how Old Norse religion is portrayed in contemporary popular culture.

Content

This course discusses Old Norse religion as practised in the late Iron Age and the Viking Age. Old Norse religion is studied using archaeological, iconographic and written sources. The students develop knowledge of Old Norse deities, central mythological themes, rituals, and religious manifestations such as iconography. Source material is discussed in lectures and in assignments specified on the online learning platform. A central part of the course is source criticism in the use of primary sources, as well as the problematisation of different interpretations.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and seminars. When the course is offered

as a distance course, seminars are replaced with group exercises on the online learning platform.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is examined through assignments throughout the course and a final take-home examination. In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Brink, Stefan, & Price, Neil. *The Viking World*, (eds: Stefan Brink, & Neil Price), Taylor & Francis, (available as an e-book), in selection, ca 100 p.

Chumies Ross, Margaret. *Hedniska ekon: myt och samhälle i fornnordisk litteratur*. Anthropolos. The latest edition, 330 p.

Steinsland, Gro. *Fornnordisk religion*. Natur & kultur. The latest edition, in selection, ca 400 p.

Den poetiska Eddan (Translation by Lars Lönnroth, 2016), The latest edition, myths in selection, ca 100 p.

Compendium with source material and articles, ca 50 p.