

MEDI 360 (F01) 2006

Selected Topics in Medieval Culture: “Old Norse Gods and Heroes”

**David Strong Building -
C108**

T. W. F: 1:30 - 2:20

**Instructor: P. A. Baer
Office: Cle C153
Office phone: 721-5484**

**Office hours:
T. W. F: 2:30 - 3:20**

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Required Texts

- 1. Edda**
- 2. The Poetic Edda**
- 3. Nordic Religions.in
the Viking Age**
- 4. Eyrbyggja Saga**
- 5. The Saga of the
Volsungs**

Coursepack

Reserve Texts

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the myths, religious beliefs, and heroic traditions of the Vikings up to and including their conversion to Christianity. Primary sources will be studied (in English translation) to provide an understanding of how this knowledge has been preserved and the inherent biases of such material. We will read introductory excerpts from non-Germanic sources including Tacitus and Ibn Fadlan. The major focus of the course, however, will be on medieval Scandinavian sources such as Saxo Grammaticus, Snorri Sturluson, the Icelandic Poetic Edda, and several Icelandic sagas. Examples drawn from archeological artifacts,

FRIDAY: Saxo Grammaticus and Snorri Sturluson
NR: Ch. 2 - "Religions in the Viking Age: Contexts and Concepts for Analysis" p. 30 - 44

Week 3: Sept. 19 –22, 2006

TUESDAY: Heimskringla
CP: “The Saga of the Ynglings” (“Snorri’s Foreword” and the saga).....p. 42 - 67

WEDNESDAY: Kings and Gold
PE:

The origin of Sif's golden hair and 5 other treasuresp. 96 - 97
CWeb: "Sörla þátrr" ("The Tale of Sorli") - Loki steals Freyja's necklace..... (see Wk. 4 - Wed.)
"Haustlong" ("Autumn Long" - Idunn scene)(equals ½ page)

FRIDAY: Loki's Flyting; the Death of Baldr; the Binding of Loki

PE: "Lokasenna" ("Loki's Quarrel")..... p. 84 - 96
"Baldrs draumar" ("Baldr's Dreams")..... p. 243 - 245
SE: Death of Baldr and Binding of Loki.....p. 48 - 52
Aegir's Feast and references to "Lokasenna" first ½ of 2nd paragraph p. 95
CP: : Saxo - "Book Three".....p.72 - 79

Week 7: Oct. 17 – 20, 2006

TUESDAY: Freyr; Heimdal; Ragnarok

PE: "Skírnismál" ("Skirnir's Journey")p. 61 - 68
SE: The story of Freyr's wooing of Gerdp. 31 – middle of 32
The twilight of the gods (Ragnarok)bottom of p. 52 – middle of 57

WEDNESDAY: Guest Speaker

Anatoly Liberman - "Baldr and the Mistletoe"

This lecture will be in Clearihue C112 and it will also open to the general public.

FRIDAY: Loki's Pre-trial Discussion

Week 8: Oct. 24 – 27 , 2006

TUESDAY: Loki's Trial

- Position Paper assignment must be handed in for admission to class discussion.

WEDNESDAY: In2(on 1 1 Tf(r)3(a)4(s)6.3(O)-2(c)-206 .3(O6B-5(e6.3(O)-2w(")T:)]t)-2(o4(r)odY:)]T .3(O,d)-10(iH(r)u)4(n)]TJ 0.00

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FRIDAY: Eyrbyggja Saga
ES: Chapter: 1 - 38..... p. 25 - 102

Week 12: Nov. 21 – 24, 2006

TUESDAY: Eyrbyggja Saga
ES: Chapter: 39 - 55..... p. 103 - 166

WEDNESDAY: Interactions with Ghosts and Healers
NR: Ch 4 - "Visitors from Beyond".....p. 70 - 91
Ch 5 - "Concepts of Health and Healing"..... focus on: p. 104 - 116

FRIDAY: The Conversion to Christianity (ESSAY DUE)
NR: Ch 7 - "The Coming of the Cross"..... focus on: p. 152 - 163
CP: Ch 154 - 157 from Njal's Sagap. 124 -130

Week 13: Nov. 28 - Dec. 1,.....