The “Viking Age” was a period of raiding and trading, settlement and conquest. From the eighth to the eleventh century, there was a massive movement of people from their Scandinavian homelands across the Baltic and the North Seas, into Ireland, the British Isles, Western Europe and the Slavic lands. This course focuses on the art and material culture of the Viking Age: jewelry, coins, weapons, precious metalwork, and longships, as well as sculpture, architecture, and painting, across a wide geographical area. We will also consider the historical and literary contexts of Viking Age culture, including Norse and Icelandic sagas, and the accounts of Arab travelers.

Learning Objectives

• Become familiar with the art and architecture of the early Middle Ages in Northern Europe
• Learn to analyze, interpret, and write about material culture
• Contextualize the cultural and historical significance of objects, art works, and architecture

No prerequisite in art history is required.

Course Requirements

The course will include an 8-page paper, two in-class quizzes, a final test, and an ongoing collaborative geo-reference project. For that project, each student will contribute approximately 10 individual entries and write two short papers (1-page and 3-page). Guidelines for all assignments will be posted on the course site on Trunk. Attendance for all class meetings is expected. Lectures and class discussions will not cover the same material as course readings.

Texts and Materials

Required readings from *Vikings: Life and Legend*, ed. G Williams (print; bookstore), *The Viking Age: A Reader*, ed. A Somerville (print; bookstore), *The Vikings and Their Age*, ed. A Somerville and R A MacDonald, and other essays, texts, and resources posted or linked on Trunk. Regular use of the course Trunk site is required.
Grade Distribution

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Two quizzes (in-class on 10/3 and 11/2) 20% (10% each)
- Final test (exam week, 12/22) 20%
- Term paper (due 12/12) 20%
- Map Project 30%

A failing grade on any requirement, or failure to complete any requirement, may result in a failing grade for the course.

Attendance & Participation: 10% of course grade
Attendance and engaged participation are expected at all class meetings.

Quizzes (2): 20% of course grade (10% each)
Identification of terms; comparisons and short discussions of images. Not cumulative.

Final Test: 20% of course grade
Covers major objects/sites and ideas from the course. Format will be similar to that of quizzes. Please note the date and time of the exam: Thursday Dec 22, 8:30 am. This time is determined by the block schedule. No early exams or alternate times will be arranged.

Term Paper: 20% of course grade
8 pages, combining secondary-source research with analysis of objects. Topics must be approved by Prof. Overbey by 11/7. An optional draft may be submitted by 11/28.

Map Project: 30% of final grade
This collaborative class project will use an online mapping and annotation program to create an interactive map of Viking art. There are five topics to map, each with 1-3 posts per student. Each post will include an image and a 50-100 word entry on the visual and/or historical features of the site or artwork. The topics and posts will be the basis for several class discussions. Posts are due by class time on 9/26 and 12/5, and by 6 pm on 10/11, 10/23, and 11/8 (note these are evenings before class meetings).

The project also includes two short papers: a 1-page paper (due 9/30) describing a work of art using methods of art historical analysis, and a 3-page paper (due 11/21) on the historical context of a work of art. Both papers will focus on objects from the Map, and both will be preparatory steps for the Term Paper.

This syllabus subject to change. See Trunk for updates
Policies and Resources

Academic Integrity
Honesty, scholarly ethics and responsibility are fundamental to the integrity of the University community. Academic dishonesty threatens the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty including plagiarism will result in strict penalties including, but not limited to, a failing grade in this course. You will receive an F (zero) on any paper, exam or assignment (print or electronic) you turn in that is plagiarized in any way; plagiarism may result in disciplinary action by the University. Students are responsible for knowing Tufts policies on academic integrity, which can be found here: https://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/student-life-policies/academic-integrity-policy

Sexual Misconduct Policy/Sexual Assault Policy (Title IX)
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: http://oeo.tufts.edu/tufts-university-title-ix-liaisons/ and emergency contact information here: http://oeo.tufts.edu/emergency-resources/

Student Accessibility Services
Tufts University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who have documented physical or learning disabilities and need accommodations for their classes should email Student Accessibility Services. (accessibility@tufts.edu) Student Accessibility Services will work with you to provide counseling and support and arrange accommodations such as extended time exams, e-books, and time management tutoring. Additional information is available here: http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/disability/

Additional Information on Assignments and Absences

- All work is due as noted on the course calendar and/or Trunk.
- Work turned in late will be downgraded one-third letter grade per day.
- Any arrangements for extensions are at the instructor’s discretion, and may include a grade reduction.
- Computer and/or printer failure will not be considered a valid excuse for late or missing assignments. Most assignments will be turned in through Trunk.
- Keep a copy of all assignments until you receive your final grade for the course.
- Unless specifically requested, do not submit assignments as email attachments.
- If you are absent from class, for whatever reason, be prepared for the next class meeting by following the syllabus.
- Please notify me in advance of any scheduled absences. More than two unexcused absences, or frequent lateness, will lower your course grade. Excused absences must be documented in writing by your Dean, your academic advisor, or Health Services.
Required Readings & Assignments
All readings should be completed before the class for which they are listed (with the exception of the first class). Additional readings may be assigned; optional readings and suggestions for further research will be listed on Trunk. Assignments are listed on the day they are due or will be discussed in class.

VLL = Vikings: Life and Legend (heavily illustrated!)
VNAS = Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga
VR = Viking Age: A Reader
VTA = The Vikings and Their Age
(H) = Hneftafl (game; possible in-class play)

Week 1
W 09.07 Introduction to Vikings!
VLL 13-27

Week 2
M 09.12 The Viking Age: Mapping, Geography, Timelines
intro assignment due in class (see Trunk)
VLL 29-35

W 09.14 Viking Homelands: Settlements and Artifacts
VNAS 72-85 (PDF)
VR #1 “Voyages of Ohthere and Wulfstan”

Week 3
M 09.19 Viking Homelands: Dress, Jewelry and Objects (H)
VNAS 55-71 (PDF)
Hneftafl assignment due

W 09.21 Viking Homelands: Styles of Art Workshop (H)

Week 4
M 09.26 Raiding and Trading: Coins and Commodities
VLL 49-62, 70-71
VR #63 “A Muslim Diplomat”
MAP 1 due

W 09.28 Raiding and Trading: Crossing Cultures
VLL 62-69, 72-75
1-page paper due by 6 pm Friday 9.30

Week 5
M 10.03 Quiz 1 (H)

W 10.05 Warrior Culture: Viking Ships
VLL 92-96, 203-233

This syllabus subject to change. See Trunk for updates
Week 6
M 10.10  Indigenous Peoples Day: no class meeting
W 10.12  Warrior Culture: Battle Gear
          VLL 77-91, 97-106, 116-117
          VR #29 “Viking Warrior” and #31 “Weapons” (sections A and C)
          MAP 2 due by 6 pm 10.11

Week 7
M 10.17  Settlements: Ireland and Scotland
          VLL 97-101, 120-121, and VNAS 127-141 (PDF)
          VR #45 “Irish Resistance to the Norsemen”

W 10.19  Settlements: Vikings in England
          See Trunk for reading assignment

Week 8
M 10.24  Settlements: East and West
          VLL 38-49, 72-73 and VNAS 143-145, 169-174 (PDF)
          MAP 3 due by 6 pm 10.23

W 10.26  Settlements: The Scandinavian Kingdoms (H)
          VLL 150-155, 158-159, VTA 49-55
          VR 423 + #100 “Unification of Norway”

Week 9
M 10.31  Settlements: Vinland
          VNAS 189-192, 208-217, VTA 75-80
          VR #76-78 “Adam of Bremen on Vinland,” “The Norse Discovery of Vinland,” and “Thorfinn Karlsefni”

W 11.02  Quiz 2 (H)

Week 10
M 11.07  Ritual and Belief: Myth, Magic, and Burial
          VLL 163-182, VTA 56-62
          VR #7 “Norse Creation Myth”
          Paper topic due

W 11.09  Ritual and Belief: Ritual Objects
          MAP 4 due by 6 pm 11.08

Week 11
M 11.14  Ritual and Belief: Religions in Viking Britain (H)
          See Trunk for reading assignment

This syllabus subject to change. See Trunk for updates
W 11.16  Ritual and Belief: Christianity in Scandinavia
         VLL 183-201
         VR 371 + # 90 “Olaf Tryggvason and the Conversion of Norway”

Week 12
M 11.21  Art and Narrative: Representing the Vikings
         3-page paper due

W 11.23  Thanksgiving Break: no class meeting

Week 13
M 11.28  Art and Narrative: Rune Stones (H)
         See Trunk for reading assignment
         optional draft of term paper due

W 11.30  Art and Narrative: Sagas and Manuscripts
         VNAS 186-187, VTA 105-128

Week 14
M 12.05  Art and Narrative: Objects with Stories
         MAP 5 due

W 12.07  Art and Narrative: Viking Biographies and Modern Vikings
         VNAS 354-373 (PDF), VTA 67-83

Week 15
M 12.12  Conclusions and Questions
         Term paper due

Thursday December 22, 8:30-10:20 am: Final Exam
Location TBA

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