

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2017-2018 SCAND 551 A1: Old Norse Grammar
(Fall Term)**

Time: TR 11:00am-12:20pm

Place: HC 1 15

Instructor: Dr Natalie Van Deusen

E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca

Office: Arts 316-D

Office Hours: TR 10:00am-11:00am or by appt.

Telephone: (no office phones)

Fax: 780-492-9106

Course Prerequisite: Consent of department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course, together with its continuation in the winter term, is designed to give you a good reading knowledge of the literary language of medieval Iceland and Norway, including a functional understanding of its grammar and an elementary vocabulary. Old Norse takes a great deal of practice to master, therefore you will be expected to participate in class by taking part in daily readings and grammar exercises, answering short review quizzes at the beginning of Thursday class days (starting week 2), and by answering two tests, as well as a comprehensive final examination that will test you on all subjects covered during the semester.

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Define Old Norse, including where it was used and in what time period
- Understand the basic grammar and vocabulary of Old Norse
- Read and translate Old Norse texts with the aid of a dictionary
- Recognize and parse different word forms

Texts:

- *A New Introduction to Old Norse* (4th edition) – Part II (Reader)
- *A New Introduction to Old Norse* (4th edition) – Part III (Glossary and Index of Names)
- Zoega’s Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic
- Additional materials provided by instructor.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Grammar/Vocabulary Quizzes (12 total, 3% each)	26%
Participation and preparedness (daily)	18%
Test 1: October 1 (focused on grammar/vocabulary)	18%
Test 2: November 5 (focused on reading)	18%
Final Examination: December 14, 9:00am (comprehensive)	20%

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): February 12, 9:00am

Please consult the following site:

<http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Grammar/Vocabulary Quizzes: The quizzes (every Thursday starting week 2) will focus both on grammatical forms covered that week, and on vocabulary from a provided list.

Participation and preparedness: I ask that you come to class with your homework (which we will review in class) complete and done to the best of your ability.

Test Grades (including the final): You are graded directly in proportion to the number of inflectional forms and translations you get entirely correct (where applicable, such as in a reading section, misidentification of a word’s inflectional form and mistranslation of it count as two separate errors).

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of

Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general. If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of

potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, attendance and participation are absolutely necessary. The use of electronic devices in class (cell phones, tablets, laptops) is prohibited unless explicitly stated otherwise for a particular activity, or under special circumstances. **Ultimate responsibility for all class material, and for familiarity with this syllabus, rests with the individual student.**

Policy for Late Assignments:

There are no “redos” or make-ups for quizzes, readings, or tests. However, you do get one free missed daily grade (i.e., one dropped daily 2% grade, either one quiz or one reading grade but not both). Otherwise I will need reasonable evidence that you had an emergency or a crisis in order to let you make up for an assignment (especially a test). **I do not award alternative or extra credit.**

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale”

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory

C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One

Tuesday, Sept. 5

- What is Old Norse?
- The alphabet of Old Norse
- Pronunciation of vowels and consonants

Homework for Thursday:
Pronunciation handout—practice!

Thursday, Sept. 7

- Alphabet; vowels and consonants pronunciation
- Pronunciation of diphthongs and double consonants
- Nouns and pronouns: the basics
- Case and apposition

Homework for Tuesday:
Read vocabulary list
Complete assigned exercises

Week Two

Tuesday, Sept. 12

- The definite article: use and function
- Strong and weak noun declensions

Homework for Thursday:
Study vocabulary list (*vocab quiz on Thursday!*)
Practice nouns and pronouns (exercise)

Thursday, Sept. 14

- Declension of proper nouns

Homework for Tuesday:
Study vocabulary list
Practice strong and weak singular paradigms (exercise)
Memorize definite article declension

Week Three

Tuesday, Sept. 19

- Special noun stem rules
- Verbs: definition, categories, and use in Old Norse

Homework for Thursday:

Study vocabulary list

Handout exercise on nouns and verbs (*noun declension quiz on Thursday!*)

Thursday, Sept. 21

- Personal pronouns
- Plural nouns (strong and weak)
- “To be”

Homework for Tuesday:

Study vocabulary list

Personal pronoun exercises

Activity sheet: noun declensions

Complete paradigm sheet, save PDF copy for review

Week Four

Tuesday, Sept. 26

- In-class verb work
- Reading out loud

Homework for Thursday:

Study vocabulary list

Activity sheet: “to be” and pronouns (*quiz on pronouns on Thursday!*)

Short reading exercise

Thursday, Oct. 1

- U-mutation/umlaut

Homework for Tuesday:

Study vocabulary list and paradigms

Reading and fill-in-the-blanks exercise

Week Five

Tuesday, Oct. 3

- Name declension
- Strong and weak verbs; verb stems and endings

Homework for Thursday:

Study vocabulary list

Review singular and plural noun declension (*quiz on this Thursday*)

Handout exercises

Conjugate present indicative forms (with pronouns) of *elska*, *þykkja*, *selja*, *trúa*

Thursday, Oct. 5

- Reflexive pronoun “sinn”
- Reading, parsing, and translating

Homework for Tuesday:

Study vocabulary list

Review Tuesday! Come with questions

Handout exercises

Week Six

Tuesday, Oct. 9

- Reading, parsing, and translating
- Exam review

Thursday, Oct. 15

- EXAM 1

Week Seven

Tuesday, Oct. 17

- “Minn” and “þinn”
- Short and long vowels
- Special stem rules
- “Maðr” and “sonr”
- “Hafa” and prepositions

Homework for Thursday:

Study vocabulary list

Translation exercise

Handout exercises + reading selection (*quiz on Thursday - declension of maðr + 4 vocab words from list*)

Thursday, Oct. 19

- Feminine and neuter nouns (type 1)
- Weak verbs - past tense
- I-umlaut

Homework for Tuesday:

Reading from *Hrólfs saga kraka* (pp. 3-5)
Handout exercises

Week Eight

Tuesday, Oct. 24

- Middle and passive voice
- Reflexive pronoun *sik*
- Reading and translation from *Hrólfs saga kraka* (pp. 3-5)

Homework for Thursday:

Reading from *Hrólfs saga kraka* (pp. 6-8)

Handout exercises (*quiz on weak verb conjugation, 4 vocab words from Hrólf's saga*)

Thursday, Oct. 26

- Strong nouns: type 2
- Nouns ending in long vowels

Homework for Tuesday:

Hrólfs saga kraka (pp. 9-12)

Handout exercises

Week Nine

Tuesday, Oct. 30

- Kinship nouns
- Strong verbs
- Principal parts

Homework for Thursday:

Remainder of *Hrólfs saga kraka*

Handout exercises (*quiz on weak principal parts, 4 vocab words from Hrólf's saga*)

Thursday, Nov. 2

- Grammar and vocab recap

Homework for Tuesday:

Review exercises

Week Ten

Tuesday, Nov. 6

- Exam review

Thursday, Nov. 12

- EXAM 2

Week Eleven: READING WEEK – NO CLASS!

Week Twelve

Tuesday, Nov. 21

- Verbs: mood
- Parsing

Homework for Thursday:

Handout exercises

Skáldskaparmál lines 1-30 + parsing (*no quiz Thursday*)

Thursday, Nov. 23

- The definite article
- Demonstrative pronouns
- Clauses

Homework for Tuesday:

Handout exercises

Skáldskaparmál lines 31-60 + parsing

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, Nov. 28

- Definite article
- Subjunctive (past tense)

Homework for Thursday:

Handout exercises

Skáldskaparmál, lines 61-101 + parsing (*quiz Thursday, definite article + parse 4 words from Skáldskaparmál*)

Thursday, Nov. 30

- Adjectives (strong declension, indeclinable)
- Unseen reading practice

Homework for Tuesday:

Handout exercises

Skáldskaparmál review (parsing)

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, Dec. 5

- Principal parts
- Past participles and perfect tense

Homework for Thursday:
Handout exercises

Thursday, Dec. 7

- FINAL EXAM REVIEW