

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2020-2021 NORSE 111 A1: Beginners' Old Norse
(Fall Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Van Deusen
Office: REMOTE
E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca
Course Website: eClass

Time: T/Th, 11:00a-12:20p
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: T/Th, 10:00-11:00 on Zoom,
or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: No prerequisite.

Technology requirements (minimum): This course requires that you have access to the internet and a computer or other device that can run Zoom and eClass and that has a camera and microphone. Please consult the following page to ensure you have the minimum technology specifications recommended by the University:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>.

All class and small group meetings will take place via Zoom and posted later to eClass. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

Course Format:

The course will be primarily synchronous learning, and will take place on Zoom.

Remote Expectations and Important Information

- I expect you to complete all readings and tasks before each class meeting and by the end of the semester. You are responsible for staying up to date with course readings, assignments, and expectations.
- All communication and class announcements will occur via the “announcement” section on eClass, for which you receive e-mail alerts. All other communication between me and individual students will always occur via e-mail.
- You are responsible for having the appropriate technology and network connection to allow you to check eClass and your e-mail daily. All assignments, forums, links, etc. are posted there, as are updates, news, course work, and expectations. This is vital to your successful completion of this course online.
- I can easily set up online Zoom meeting if needed. If you ever need to speak to me directly for any reason, don't hesitate to email me and make a meeting appointment to do this. **Office hours are always on Zoom, never in person.**
- Accommodations: If you require any accommodations or have any concerns about your progress in the course, please communicate with me through email or request a Zoom meeting.

Texts:

- *Graded Readings and Exercises in Old Icelandic* (eClass)
- *A New Introduction to Old Norse* (3rd edition) - Part I (Grammar)
- *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)
- Additional materials provided by instructor.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Grammar/Vocabulary Quizzes (10 total)	20%
Participation and preparedness (daily)	20%
Take-home test 1: October 6 (focused on grammar/vocabulary)	20%
Take-home test 2: November 3 (focused on reading)	20%
Take-home test 3: December 3 (focused on reading/parsing)	20%

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. They will be administered on eClass.

Participation and preparedness: In-class participation is vital to your success in this course. This is also true for the remote environment for this fall term. For NORSE 111, this means we will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom video conferencing; on Tuesdays, we meet as the entire class, and on Thursdays, we meet in smaller groups (you will take your weekly eClass quiz during the time you are not in a session). During the video conferencing sessions, you are expected to participate just like in a regular classroom: interacting with your classmates and the instructor, doing a variety of activities. You will need a microphone so that everyone can hear you and we also encourage you to switch on your camera (because nobody wants to talk to a blank screen 😊).

In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. You are also expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the instructor) to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to make up work and learn the material for classes you miss. For more detail, please consult the section *Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components* below

Test Grades: 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.

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study 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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance and participation are absolutely necessary. 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.**

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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 Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59