Hons Vikings and Valkyries Spring 2013

Instructor: Prof. Cormack
Office: 4 Glebe St. room 102 (enter from porch. mailboxes are also here)
Phone: 953-8033 Email: cormackm@cofc.edu
Office Hours: NMWF 1:20-2:40 or by appointment

The best way to get in touch with me is by email, or by seeing me after class. I try to respond to emails within 36 hours (60 hours if I receive them Friday, Saturday, or Sunday). Failing that, leave a message for me in my mailbox. You can also leave a message with the secretary at 4 Glebe; the phone number is 953-0895. Leaving messages on MY phone mail is NOT a good way to reach me; I check my email and physical mailbox far more often.

I will communicate with the class as a whole by announcement IN CLASS (people who attend class will get the assignments first!) and through OAKS. Please note that the college uses email as an official means of communicating with students; if you use a different address than your college address, make sure your college email forwards to it.

Papers, exams, etc. should always be delivered to me personally. Until they are in my hands, I have no evidence that you have written them. Above all, DO NOT LEAVE THEM STUCK UNDER THE DOOR! Leave them in MY MAILBOX IN THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING (see above!) anytime before 4:30 PM on a weekday. Confirm by email that you have done so. NB: For added security, ALWAYS make sure you have a xerox copy (or computer printout) of any work you hand in. In emergencies (broken printers etc.) DEPOSIT YOUR PAPER ON OAKS and tell me you have done so, but do not send it as an email attachment. Note that OAKS keeps track of when papers are delivered!

Required texts:


NOTE: It is essential to get these translations and no other. Unfortunately they are new ones, don´t confuse them with older Penguin translations by Hermann Pálsson. In addition to being sold as separate volumes, they are both printed in The Sagas of Icelanders (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) by Robert Kellog and Jane Smiley. _ISBN-10: 0141000031 ISBN-13: 978-0141000039_ This fat volume contains many other sagas as well, and it might actually be cheaper to purchase it rather than the individual volumes (depending on whether you get new or used copies, at the College Bookstore or on Amazon).

_The Elder Edda: A Book of Viking Lore_ (Penguin Classics) transl. Andy Orchard
ISBN: 0140435859

Optional Texts:
R. I. Page, *Runes*  
University of California Press

**ISBN-10: 0520061144**  

We will only use this for a day or two but it is the best book on the subject out there.

Lindow, John, *Norse Mythology: A Guide to Gods, Heroes, Rituals and Beliefs*  
a basic reference work. Oxford University press ISBN-10: 0195153820  
A good basic reference work, one of the best out there for Scandinavian Mythology.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading is **cumulative** - you can calculate the grade you have earned to date by **adding up the points** you have received so far and comparing the total to the grading scale. For privacy and security reasons, I do not convey information about student grades by email.

Your grade will be based on:

- **2 Hour Exams**, 24 points each. **Exams are essay exams.**

- **Final Exam (not cumulative: this is the third hour exam)**, 24 points.

- **Cumulative Essay**, 18 points. This essay is to be typed, double spaced, at least five and no more than seven full pages plus a cover sheet and works cited page (if needed). The essay topic will be given no later than April 12, and the essay will be due April 19 (though I will accept them earlier). This essay will not be a research essay; rather, it will require you to go back and think over what you have studied so far, using all the different kinds of sources to write your answer. Detailed instructions and a rubric will be provided. Wikipedia will not be useless!

- **Short Essays** 10 points. I will announce the topic of these essays during the class before which they are due. They essays focus on the content of the ER readings, and are not meant to be literary masterpieces. Don’t spend time on an elaborate introduction; get to the point of the question asked. They should be 1-2 pages long, no more. They must be typed (double spaced) and stapled (better yet, print them double sided to save paper). Do not use a special header: just your name, RELS 105, and my name in a single line at the top of the page. These are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, whether I collect them at that time or not. If you have a genuine computer or printer problem and deposit the essay in OAKS BEFORE CLASS STARTS I will accept this as evidence that you have written the essay, but I STILL WANT HARD COPY WITHIN 24 HOURS. Note that there is a computer and printer in the religious studies lounge.
just outside my office and you can print out your essay there, BEFORE class please! These assignments are intended to be the basis of class discussion: they CANNOT BE MADE UP. However, since there are about nine opportunities, if you miss one you can do the next one. They are worth 2 points per assignment, so if you get a full 2 points on the first five assignments you are done (or can do more for extra credit). They grades are additive: if you get 1.5 points on 4 assignments, that is the equivalent of getting 2 points on three assignments – you would then need to do 7 assignments to get the full ten points. You will not receive detailed comments on these assignments: it is up to you to attend class and make notes on the discussion that takes place in the classroom, correcting any errors or misunderstandings in your notes (you can make notes on the paper itself if you want to, just so I can see what you originally wrote.)

- **Extra Credit**: You may earn up to three extra points by doing more than the required number of short essays OR by attending guest lectures and handing in your notes. Guest lectures are events that I cannot predict in advance; it often happens that a speaker comes to campus and addresses a topic that is relevant to the course. If this happens, I will let you know. These activities do not necessarily happen at a time you can attend – that’s why they are EXTRA credit. You can also earn extra credit by doing more than the minimum number of short essays. **The total number of points acquired through short essays plus extra credit cannot exceed 13.**

**Disabilities**: If you have a disability that qualifies you for special accommodation, please present a letter to me from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Although you are under no obligation to do so, if you have any special needs that may affect your work in my class (for example if your native language is not English, or if you regularly run out of time on essay exams) please let me know. For more information on the SNAP program, see: [http://spinner.cofc.edu/~cds/?referrer=webcluster](http://spinner.cofc.edu/~cds/?referrer=webcluster)

If you need special accommodation through the SNAP program or for ANY other reason, please discuss the matter with me AT LEAST A WEEK before an exam is scheduled or the assignment is due. In particular, SNAP students are responsible for getting the necessary paperwork to me a week in advance of scheduled exams.

**Computers.** Using your computer to take notes is permitted. Any other use of a computer is not. If I catch you on Facebook etc., you will be prohibited from using your computer in class. I may periodically call on computer users and ask to see their notes, either during or after class. If I am not satisfied with the quality of the notes, you may be prohibited from using a computer in future. If the notes are really excellent, I may ask you to share with those who have legitimate absences.

**Tape recorders** If you wish to record the lecture, you may leave your tape recorder (not video recorder) on the front desk. You are nonetheless expected to be present in class. This option is for those who have trouble listening to the lecture and taking notes at the same time. You should take notes from the recording after class.

**Cell phones must be turned off and put away (in pocket, purse, bookbag, etc.) before you enter the class.**

**Wearing headphones or equivalent in class is forbidden. Use of all other electronic devices in class is forbidden.**
Missed classes / exams:
I assume all class members are adults and able to manage their time in such a way as to be in their seats when class starts. Arriving more than ten minutes late to class counts as an absence. Read the syllabus for exam dates and – if your parents are buying you airline tickets – make sure they know when your exams are so that the tickets are purchased AFTER ALL your exams are over. If you anticipate a conflict, for any reason, it is far better to deal with the problem BEFORE it arises than afterwards. I am always willing to work with a student who plans ahead to arrange make up (or make–before) exams. If you miss an exam you receive an automatic F (zero points) until a make-up exam has been arranged. An F for not completing required work means an F for the course.

HONOR CODE; CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
All students are subject to the Honor Code. Lying, cheating, and plagiarism – basically, handing in work that is not your own or does not document your sources - are violations of the Honor Code and are not permitted at the College. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student committing academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure based on dishonesty. In extreme cases, suspension or expulsion from the college are possible penalties. Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission--is a form of cheating, as is submitting the same work for two courses without the prior written permission of both instructors. See the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook, which can be accessed at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php

**** IMPORTANT MESSAGES! ****
DO NOT write your SS number or student ID on any assignment for this course.

When you have a question, or if I talk too fast, RAISE YOUR HAND AND LET ME KNOW! Other class members will undoubtedly be glad that you did so. There is no point in being in the class if you don't understand what is going on.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: YOUR HEALTH MATTERS! Exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep . . . Get a thermometer and learn how to use it! If you are sick, go to the health services; they will send a note to all your professors. DON’T come to class and infect your classmates! Remember to cough or sneeze into a tissue (or your elbow), don’t get so close to anyone that they can breathe on your face (and vice versa), WASH AND DRY your hands frequently and keep them away from your face.

Read the syllabus for exam dates. If you anticipate a conflict, it is far better to deal with the problem BEFORE it arises than afterwards. I am always willing to work with a student who plans ahead to arrange make up (or make–before) exams. It is necessary to take all 3 exams and write the cumulative essay in order to pass the course.

SCHEDULE
The following list of readings is **provisional**. We may go a bit faster or slower, depending on student interest in different topics. **SPECIFIC DETAILS OF FILMS AND SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON OAKS. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTENDING CLASS AND GETTING THIS INFORMATION. YOUR ESSAY MUST BE HANDED IN, OR DEPOSITED ON OAKS, AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS AND IT MUST ADDRESS THE TOPIC ANNOUNCED IN CLASS IN ORDER FOR YOU TO GET CREDIT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.** Even if deposited on OAKS; you must give me hard copy in order to get credit.

Note that the syllabus is arranged by weeks, not days. Generally speaking, you should do the reading on the weekend before it is listed. **Short essay topics will be announced in class and on OAKS.**

Jan. 9 Introduction to course.

Jan 11 READ THIS SYLLABUS

Week of Jan. 14

Week of Jan. 21  **MONDAY IS MLK DAY, NO CLASS**

Week of Jan. 28

Feb. 4

Feb. 11

Feb. 18

Feb. 25
March 4-8 **SPRING BREAK**

March 11

March 18

March 25 **MONDAY IS THE WITHDRAW DEADLINE**

April 1

April 8

April 15

April 21

24 Last day of classes. Review for final exam.