

Old Norse

B.EP.301 Aufbaumodul 2

Term:	Winter 2018/2019	Instructor:	Dr P. S. Langeslag
Time:	Tuesdays 4–6pm	Office:	SEP 2.306
Room:	KWZ 1.701	Phone:	0551 39 19 706
Credits:	6 (lecture + seminar)	Office hours:	Tuesdays 11–12
Prerequisites:	B.EP.204 Aufbaumodul 1	E-mail:	planges@uni-goettingen.de

Course Description

This course introduces students to the language and literature of medieval Scandinavia by way of Old Icelandic. Its primary focus is on grammar and practical translation, but it will also offer brief introductions to the most prominent literary genres and the most significant historical developments.

Aims

Students will improve their knowledge of and skills in

- Old Norse grammar;
- Old Norse reading comprehension and translation; and
- Medieval Scandinavian literary culture.

Assessment

A single written exam (90 minutes) covers both the seminar and the History of the English Language lecture course. The part of the exam pertaining to Old Norse will consist of seen and unseen translation, grammar questions, and questions about Old Norse written culture. Homework and occasional unmarked language quizzes in the course of the term will serve to prepare you for the exam; your performance on these and your class participation will additionally inform my interpretation of any unclear exam answers.

Required Texts and Resources

Your two portals to readings, exercises, and other resources are

- studium.langeslag.org/norse18 (“Website” or “course website”)
- studip.uni-goettingen.de (“StudIP”)

Among further important resources linked on the course website are

- flash.langeslag.org (“Flashcards”)
- paradigms.langeslag.org (“Paradigms”)

In lieu of a textbook, we will use a combination of instructor-developed materials. In the schedule overleaf, “Website” refers to grammatical introductions on studium.langeslag.org/norse18; these cover much of the basics. Where the schedule mentions a “Grammar,” it concerns a draft excerpt from a forthcoming textbook called *Old Icelandic Verbs*, made available on StudIP. A third resource is flash.langeslag.org, referred to in the schedule as “Flashcards.” A resource that will serve less for studying than for reference at this stage is paradigms.langeslag.org, which demonstrates the workings of Old Norse verbs; whenever you are confused about the workings of a given verb, you’ll want to look it up here. These resources should suffice for most purposes, but if you are serious about learning Old Norse, you are encouraged to obtain whatever books from the bibliography at the end of this syllabus best serve your needs. The value of the various grammars and dictionaries will be discussed in session one.

Schedule

wk	date	topic	read (in English)	do/translate
1	16 Oct	Methods and Resources; Orthography and Phonology		
2	23 Oct	Grammar in Brief	Website: pronouns, nouns, weak verbs, strong verbs	Paternoster worksheet
3	30 Oct	Sound Laws	Website: adjectives; Grammar: ch. 2 (“Sound Laws”)	Craigie 1; Flashcards: Valfells vocab 1
4	6 Nov	Nouns, Pronouns, Article	Website: Pronouns, Adjectives	Mutations worksheet; Craigie 3; Flashcards: Valfells vocab 2
5	13 Nov	Verbs	Grammar: ch. 3 (“Conjugation”)	Craigie 4; Flashcards: phrases set 1
6	20 Nov	Syntax	Website: functions of the cases	Craigie 13; Verbs worksheet; Flashcards: verbs set 1
7	27 Nov	The Eddic Tradition	<i>Reginismál</i> and <i>Fáfnismál</i>	Craigie 14; Flashcards: verbs set 2
8	4 Dec	The Grammatical Treatises	Excerpt from <i>The First Grammatical Treatise</i>	Craigie 15; Flashcards: phrases 6, 7
9	11 Dec	Law	Excerpt from <i>Njáls saga</i>	Craigie 16
10	18 Dec	Faith and Power	Excerpt from <i>Íslendingabók</i>	Craigie 18
11	8 Jan	The Sagas of Icelanders	Excerpt from <i>Egils saga</i>	Craigie 23
12	15 Jan	The Legendary Sagas	Excerpt from <i>Völsunga saga</i>	Craigie 24
13	22 Jan	Voyages	Excerpt from <i>Eiríks saga rauða</i>	Craigie 27–28
14	29 Jan	EXAM in VG 4.107		

Diversity

This course is run with the understanding that students bring a variety of backgrounds into the classroom in such domains as socioeconomic, appearance, culture, religion, disability, gender, age, family situation, and sexual identity. With different backgrounds come different needs. If you feel your needs or those of a fellow student require special attention or are being compromised, please feel free to make this known to me by whatever channel seems most appropriate. (For more serious concerns, the Department, Faculty, and University each have their own points of contact as well.) I will treat all requests seriously and with confidentiality, and will seek to make accommodations within my abilities and reason. At the same time, you too owe it to your fellow students to treat them with respect regardless of their background and identity. University should be awesome — for everyone.

Further Reading

Bandle, Oskar, Kurt Braunmüller, Ernst Håkon Jahr, Allan Karker, Hans-Peter Naumann, and Ulf Teleman, eds. *The Nordic Languages: An International Handbook of the History of the North Germanic Languages*. 2 vols. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2002–2005.

Barnes, Michael. *Grammar*. 3rd ed. A New Introduction to Old Norse. London: Viking Society for Northern Research / University College London, 2008.

Cleasby, Richard, and Gudbrand Vigfusson [Guðbrandur Vigfússon], eds. *An Icelandic–English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. With a supplement by William A. Craigie. Oxford: Clarendon, 1957.

Craigie, William A. *Easy Readings in Old Icelandic: With Outlines of Grammar and Vocabularies*. Edinburgh: Hutchen, 1924.

Degnboll, Helle, et al., eds. *Ordbog over det norrøne prosasprog / A Dictionary of Old Norse Prose* [in Danish and English]. Copenhagen: Den arnemagnæanske kommission, 1989–. Accessed September 17, 2019. <http://onp.ku.dk>.

- Fritzner, Johan, ed. *Ordbog over det gamle norske Sprog* [in Bokmål]. Kristiania [Oslo]: Werner, 1867.
- Gordon, E. V. *An Introduction to Old Norse*. 2nd ed. Edited by A. R. Taylor. Oxford: Clarendon, 1956.
- Haugen, Odd Einar. *Grunnbok i norrønt språk* [in Nynorsk]. 4th ed. Oslo: Gyldendal, 2006.
- Heggstad, Leiv, Finn Hødnebo, and Erik Simensen, eds. *Norrøn ordbok* [in Nynorsk]. 5th ed. Oslo: Samlaget, 2008.
- Heusler, Andreas. *Altisländisches Elementarbuch* [in German]. 7th ed. Heidelberg: Winter, 1967.
- Iversen, Ragnvald. *Norrøn grammatikk* [in Bokmål]. 7th ed. Edited by E. F. Halvorsen. Oslo: Aschehoug, 1984.
- Krause, Todd B., and Jonathan Slocum. "Old Norse Online." Accessed September 17, 2018. <https://lrc.la.utexas.edu/eieol/norol>.
- Langeslag, P. S. *Old Icelandic Verbs: Grammar and Paradigms*. Forthcoming.
- Noreen, Adolf. *Altisländische und altnorwegische Grammatik* [in German]. 4th ed. Halle: Niemeyer, 1923.
- Vafells, Sigríð, and James E. Cathey. *Old Icelandic: An Introductory Course*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.
- Zoëga, Geir T., ed. *A Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic*. Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching 41. 1910. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004.