

The Sagas
Taught in English
Inger M. Olsen
FLL

Preliminary Syllabus
for
The Sagas

Fall Quarter 2006/2007

Taught by: Inger M. Olsen, FLL
Office hours: M., W. and Fr. by arrangement
Telephone: 725-9578
E-mail: olseni@pdx.edu

Required text: *The Sagas of Icelanders*, Örnolfur Thorson, ed. New York: Penguin Putman Inc., 2001.

Recommended text: *Female Voices of the North I*, Inger Olsen & Sven Rossel eds., Vienna: Edition Praesens, 2002.

Preliminary Outline:

1st week: Introductory lecture + film: *The 13th Warrior*

2nd week: Egil's Saga

3rd week: The Saga of the People of Vatnsdal

4th week: The Saga of the People of Laxardal

5th week: Bolli Bollason's Tale

Midterm test: October 25, 2006

6th week: The Saga of Hrafnkel Frey's Godi

7th week: The Saga of the Confederates

8th week: Gisli Sursson's Saga

9th week: The Saga of Gunnlaug Serpent-tongue

10th week: The Saga of Ref the Sly

11th week: The Vinland Sagas; the Saga of the Greenlanders; Eirik the Red's Saga.

Final test: December 6, 2006

Paper due: November 22, 2006

Requirements: 1 paper, 8-10 pages
2 tests: mid and final

Grade: paper = 33 1/3%
Tests = 2x33 1/3%

Selected Supporting Materials:

Bengtsson, Frans Gunnar. *The Long Ships*. Trans. Michael Meyer. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970.

Bredsdorff, Thomas. *Chaos & Love. The Philosophy of the Icelandic Family Sagas*. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum, 2001.

Brøndsted, Johannes. *The Vikings*. Trans. Kalle Skov. Harmondsworth, England & Baltimore, USA, 1965.

Byock, Jesse. *Medieval Iceland*. Berkeley, Los Angeles & London: University of California Press, 1988.

Byock, Jesse. *Viking Age Iceland*. New York & London: Penguin Books, 2000.

Byock, Jesse L., trans. *The Saga of the Volsungs: The Norse Epic of Sigurd the Dragon slayer*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1990.

Chickering, Howell D. Jr. Trans. *Beowulf*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1977.

Clark, Helen & Björn Ambrosiani. *Towns in the Viking Age*.

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- New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc., 1991.
- Clover, Carol J. "Hildigunnr's Lament," in *Structure and Meaning in Old Norse Literature: New Approaches to Textual Analysis and Literary Criticism*, 141-83.
Eds. John Lindow, Lars Lönnroth, Gerd Wolfgang Weber,
Odense: Odense University Press, 1986.
- Faulkes, Anthony, ed. Snorri Sturluson, *Edda*. Oxford:
Clarendon, 1982.
- Gunnell, Terry. *The Origins of Drama in Scandinavia*.
Rochester: D.S. Brewer, 1995.
- Heaney, Seamus. *Beowulf*. New York & London: W.W. Norton & Co,
2000.
- Hollander, Lee M. trans. *The Saga of the Jomsvikings*.
Austin: University of Texas Press, 1955.
- Jochens, Jenny. *Old Norse Images of Women*. Philadelphia:
U. of Pennsylvania Press, 1996.
- . *Women in Old Norse Society*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell
U. Press, 1995.
- Jones, Gwyn. *A History of the Vikings*. New York & Toronto:
Oxford University Press, 1968
- Larrington, Caroline, trans. *The Poetic Edda*. The World's
Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Miller, William Ian. *Bloddtaking and Peacemaking*.
Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1990.
- Møller, Kirsten. *Vikingætten*. Holstebro: Holstebro
Bogtrykkeri, 1997.
- Palsson, Herman & Paul Edwards, trans. *Orkneyinga Saga*.
London & New York: Penguin Books, 1978.
- Palsson, Hermann & Paul Edwards, trans. *Seven Viking
Romances*. London & New York: Penguin Books, 1985.
- Roesdahl, Else. *The Vikings*. London & New York: The Penguin
Press, 1987.
- Sawyer, P.H. *The Age of the Viking*. London: Edwards Arnold
Pubs. Ltd., 1971.
- Swenson, Karen. *Performing Definitions: Two Genres of
of Insult in Old Norse Literature*. Columbia, SC:
Camden House. 1991.

Journals:

Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Indo-European Studies
Scandinavian Studies
Scandinavica
Science
Scientific American

Further readings if available:

Adam of Bremen
Saxo Grammaticus

"If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accommodations."