

## GER 283 VIKING CULTURE Fall-08

### *SYLLABUS*

Sept. 2. Introduction. How far the Vikings? Map of the Viking World  
**Homework:** Write a portrait of a Viking as you see him and/or her (a page or two). Do not read any material on the Vikings, but use your own thoughts/imagination.

What do we know about the Viking Age, and how do we know it?

Sept. 4. “ “ The Viking homelands-geography as destiny  
**Read:** Historical Atlas of the Vikings (HA), pp. 22-23

“ 9. Scandinavia before the Vikings  
**Read:** HA, pp.16-25. **Reflection due**

“ 11. “ “Scandinavia in the Viking Age  
The different roles of the Viking: *raider, trader and farmer/ settler*  
**Read:** HA. pp. 28-35

### *Sept. 16-Sept. 23. THE VIKING RAIDS*

Sept. 16. The Viking as *raider and warrior*  
**Read:** HA pp. 46-84 and “Ships, Shipwrights and Seamen” in The Viking World (VW) Shipbuilding. The Viking ship Video **Reflection due.**

“ 18 The Viking raids

“ . 23. “ . Weapons: No horned helmets here.  
**Read:** “Viking Warriors” in VW **Quiz 1**

### *Sept. 25- Oct. 2 THE VIKINGS AS TRADERS AND MERCENARIES*

“ 25 The Viking as *merchant/trader*. Trade routes and trade centers  
**Read:** HA pp. 100-108 and “Merchantmen” in VW . **Reflection due** .

“ 30. “ “ The island of Gotland as a Viking stage for raids and trade

Oct. 2 The Vikings in the East. What Swedish rune stones tell  
**Read:** HA. pp 100-108

Oct. 7- Oct. 28. **LIFE IN THE HOMELANDS**

Oct 7 The Viking as *farmer*.  
The farming community  
**Read:** HA , pp.28-36 and “Home Life” in VW.  
Classes. “We are all of equal authority” (?)  
**Read:** Rigsthula and Havamal (both on-line) **Reflection due**

Oct 9 “ “ Family structure\_The roles of women in the Viking household  
**Read:** A: pp. 44-46

.“ 14 **Mid - term exam**

.“ 16. Houses. Clothing, weaving and spinning

21 “ “ Leisure activities, music and sports

“ 23. Art and jewelry.  
**Read:** “Viking Art“ in VW **Reflection due**

“ 28. Interaction with the Sami and cultural exchanges

Oct. 30- Nov. 11. **VIKING BELIEFS**

Oct. 30. Viking religion  
**Read:** “From Odin to Christ” in VW and pp.26-28 in HA

Nov. 4 “

“ 6. Runes, magic and spells. The healing arts.  
Read: “Rune-masters and Skalds” in VW.

“ 11. Festivities and rituals. **Reflection due Quiz 2**

Nov. 13-20 **THE VIKING EXPANSION**

Nov. 13. The Viking as *settler*. The North Atlantic Saga: Iceland, Greenland and North America  
**Read:** The Vinland Sagas and “Land Seekers” in VW

“ 18. The Vikings and North America. Video

“ 20 The Greenland colony. Video **Reflection due**

“ . 25 “ “

Dec.2- Dec 6. **THE TELLING OF TALES.**

Dec. 2 Sagas about the many roles of the Viking man and woman.  
Poetry and prose from and about the Viking Age.  
**Read: Njal's Saga and Egil's Saga.** While reading the  
Sagas compare their descriptions with what we learned before.

Dec. 4 “ “ “ **Paper due Reflection due**

“ 9 “ “ “

“ 11 The legacy of the Vikings. Review

**Final exam: 12.15: 8:00 am.-10:00 am**