



## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

### **HI1430 Viking and Medieval Scandinavian History, 15 credits**

Vikingatida och medeltida skandinavisk historia, 15 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by The Faculty of Arts on 2011-03-24 and was last revised on 2023-11-10 by Department of Historical Studies to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2023.

*Field of education:* Arts 100%

*Department:* Department of Historical Studies

#### **Position in the educational system**

Freestanding course

*Main field of studies*

History

*Specialization*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

General entrance requirements.

#### **Learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

describe the significant traits of Scandinavian history from c. 700 to 1500.

describe the political, cultural, religious, and social changes in Scandinavia during this period.

*Competence and skills*

analyze different types of sources from medieval Scandinavia.

discuss Scandinavia's growing cultural and political role in Europe during the Viking Age and the Middle Ages.

*Judgement and approach*

reflect over different historic and contemporary interpretations of the Vikings and medieval Scandinavia.

**Course content**

This course offers a broad survey of the political, social, and cultural history of Viking Age and medieval Scandinavia. It explores the Vikings—who they were, how they lived and made a living, what they believed in, how they sought to organize their society, what regions they explored, whom they loved, fought with, and befriended. It covers macro developments such as religious change, Christianization, and the expansion of state or royal power as well as everyday life, including beliefs and rituals, relations between women and men, violence, and emotions. Developments in Viking and medieval societies are examined and analyzed in relation to Scandinavia successively becoming integrated into Europe. In the course of the semester, students gain a hands-on experience with material objects such as archeological finds and runic stones as well as Old Norse sagas, miracle stories, and chivalric literature that make it possible to reconstruct this critical and fascinating period in Scandinavian history. Moreover, we explore contemporary images and the legacy of Vikings in modern popular culture.

**Form of teaching**

The course is taught mainly through seminars and lectures.

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

Examination is organized through seminar participation, in-class exams, and an individual written exam. Examination covers the content of both the course literature and the classes.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or major changes have been made a student should be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a time of at least one year from the last time the

course was given.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

**Course evaluation**

Course evaluation is carried out by a formula at the end of the course. The results and possible changes in the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and to those who are beginning the course.