

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2021-2022** SCAND 341 800: Old Norse Mythology and Legends  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Van Deusen  
Office: 316-D Arts and Convocation Hall  
E-mail: [yandeuse@ualberta.ca](mailto:yandeuse@ualberta.ca)  
Course Website: eClass  
TA: Derya Cinar

Time: TR 11a-12:20p  
Place: Remote (Zoom link on eClass)  
Office Hours: TR 10a-11a,  
or by appointment  
E-mail: [cinar@ualberta.ca](mailto:cinar@ualberta.ca)

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** None

**Technology requirements (minimum):** This course requires that you have access to the internet and a computer or other device that can run Zoom and eClass and that has a camera and microphone. Please consult the following page to ensure you have the minimum technology specifications recommended by the University:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>.

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course introduces and surveys the religious beliefs, mythologies, and legends of pre-Christian Scandinavia, including Finland and Sápmi. It examines various works of (translated) primary literature that deal with these subjects. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- define and classify key figures, places, time periods, and events from Norse, Finnish, and Sámi mythology and legends
- discuss the historical and cultural contexts of the myths, legends, and other primary texts covered in the course
- describe and critically analyze the sources of information for Viking Age and medieval Scandinavian religious beliefs and legends
- identify and analyze manifestations and appropriations of Norse, Finnish, and Sámi mythology and legend in modern popular culture

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest lectures, assigned readings, and audiovisual materials. This class is either synchronous and asynchronous (your choice!). I will deliver the lectures live on Tuesday and Thursday from 11a-12:20p MT via Zoom (unless otherwise indicated; link on eClass). Lectures will be recorded and posted immediately after this time slot. You therefore have the option of attending during the class time (and getting to ask questions!) or watching the recorded lecture on your own time.

**Texts:**

Required (available at the University of Alberta Bookstore or Amazon):

- Snorri Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*, Penguin Classics.
- *The Poetic Edda*, transl. Carolyne Larrington. Oxford University Press.
- Elias Lönnrot, *The Kalevala*. Oxford University Press.
- *The Saga of the Volsungs*, transl. Jesse Byock. Penguin Classics

Recommended (available digitally through the University of Alberta Library)

- Lindow, John. *Norse Mythology: A Guide to the Gods, Heroes, Rituals, and Beliefs*. Oxford University Press.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date: December 20, 2021

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=10107 - examinations-exams>)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Exam 1 (September 28)	30%
Exam 2 (November 4)	30%
Exam 3 (December 20)	40%

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Assessment for this course comprises two term exams and a comprehensive final. The exams are a combination of matching, multiple choice, and essay. A study guide will be provided prior to each exam.

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

In this course, attendance is not mandatory, but the expectation is that students watch all lectures in either live or recorded format.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension.

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:*****Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**All lectures will be recorded** (see <https://www.ualberta.ca/chief-information-security-officer/online-meetings-and-classes/best-practices-recording-lectures.html>).

1. Please ensure that no other people are in the camera/recording view and that there is nothing identifiable or sensitive in that view (personal belongings, records, medications, etc.) prior to the class recording starting. **You may turn off their computer's camera or microphone if you are uncomfortable with being recorded.**
2. The recording is being made for those students unable to attend the live lecture.
3. Only students enrolled in the class will have access to the recording, and it will only be made available through eClass.
4. Access will be provided until the end of the semester, after which point the recordings will be deleted.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming

year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[The Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

### **Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct.

Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

### **Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation](#)

[Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	<b>95-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>90-94</b>
	A-	3.7	<b>86-89</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	<b>82-85</b>
	B	3.0	<b>75-81</b>
	B-	2.7	<b>70-74</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	<b>66-69</b>
	C	2.0	<b>61-65</b>
	C-	1.7	<b>58-60</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	<b>55-57</b>
	D	1.0	<b>50-54</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	F	0.0	<b>0-49</b>

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