

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2016 SCAND 499 A1: Modern Icelandic (Directed Reading)
(Spring Term, May 9-June 15)**

Instructor: Dr Natalie Van Deusen
Office: Arts 316-D
Telephone: (no office phones)

E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca
Office Hours: TR 10:00am-11:00am or by appt.
Fax: 780-492-9106

Course Prerequisite: None

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

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

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This directed reading is intended as a continuation of SCAND 551 and 552, and will help students translate their knowledge of Old Norse to its modern equivalent, Icelandic. It will guide students through the free Icelandic Online 1 (Beginner Level, CEFR Level A1) and IOL 2 (Lower Intermediate Level, CEFR Level A1/A2), which will be supplemented by additional readings and exercises to be completed on eClass.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the basic points of Icelandic grammar (particularly those that have changed noticeably from Old Norse)
2. Carry out basic communicative tasks, such as asking questions, making requests, explaining

locations and reasons, and inquire about the background, needs, and likes of others as well as stating their own.

3. Know enough vocabulary to express themselves on everyday topics relevant to students and travelers in Iceland and to understand written and oral texts relating to these issues.
4. Understand the general history and culture of Iceland.

Required books:

None; all work will be done on icelandiconline.is (a free online courses). Additional readings for translation will be provided on eClass.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

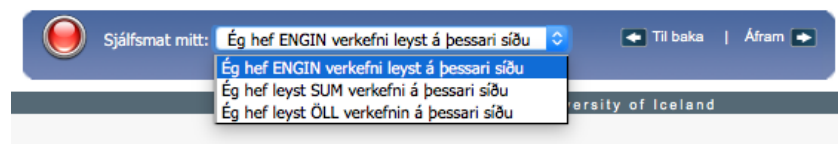
- Weekly quizzes: 25 %
- Midterm exam (May 27): 25 %
- Final exam (June 15): 25 %
- Homework 25 %

Date of Deferred Final Exam: N/A

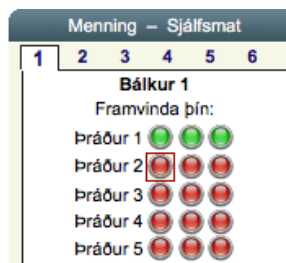
Explanatory notes on Assignments:

Quizzes: There will be one quiz per week. A quiz gets 2/2 if 80% or more of the inflectional forms and vocabulary items are correct, 1/2 if 70-79% are correct, 0/2 if 0-69% are correct, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Homework: In addition to short reading and response assignments, I request that every week you take a screenshot of the progress section of the units I have asked you to complete to demonstrate that you have completed them. Within each unit (*bálkur*) are “threads,” each of which contains three pages. On each page (*síða*) within a thread (*þráður*), you are asked to verify that you have completed the assignment (*verkefni*) on it (a drop-down menu next to the red button at the bottom). The final option indicates you have completed all of the work on the page:



The progress section keeps track of how many pages within the threads within the unit you have completed:



All should show as green to indicate you have completed the unit. Please submit images of all the units you were asked to complete that week.

Useful Websites

1) Online dictionary (search full entries or headwords in Íslensk-ensk or abók):

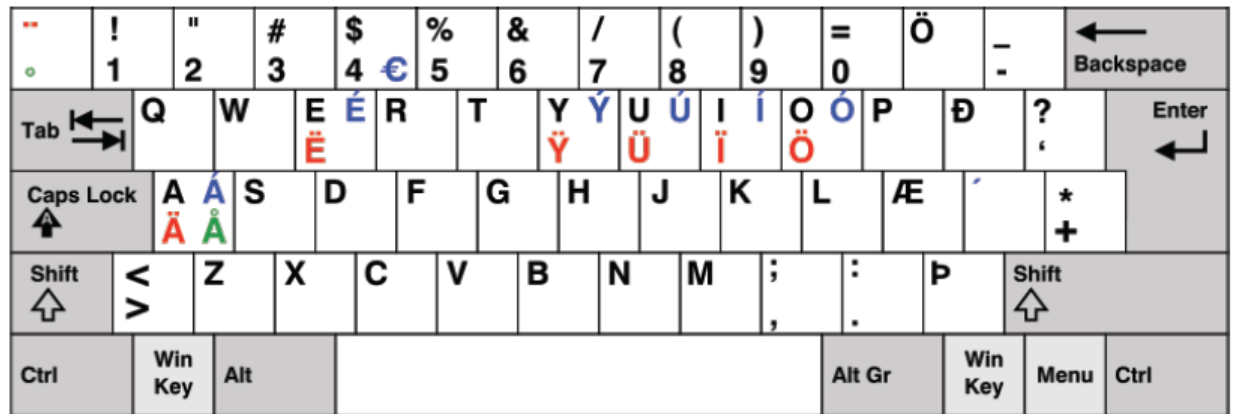
<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/IcelOnline/Search.TEId.html>

2) Beygingarlýsing íslensks nútímamáls (Icelandic only. Conjugation and declension database of modern Icelandic.): <http://bin.arnastofnun.is/>

NOTE: Google Translate is not allowed. It is not useful (particularly with Icelandic), and it is a shortcut that undermines the language learning process!

Special letters of Icelandic

Icelandic has a number of letters that English does not use (</>, fi/fl, Æ/æ, Ö/ö), as well as accented vowels (á, é, í, ó, ú, ý). You can inform yourself online about how to insert these special characters in your writing program (i.e., pressing ALT plus a number combination, Unicode, etc.). I suggest switching your keyboard to Icelandic and memorizing or marking on your keyboard where the special characters and the accent button are.¹



Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

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 (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in

¹ To insert an accented vowel, press the accent button (right of Æ) first and then the desired vowel.

suspicious 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.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

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 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. Recorded material 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).

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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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.

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. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in with a 2%-per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssd.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation

			for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Note: Bursaries of \$150.00 will be provided by the Norwegian service club *Sons of Norway-Torskeklubben* to students who have successfully completed a Scandinavian course (incl. SCAND 499) with a minimum grade of B-.

Schedule:

- Week 1** (May 9-13): Icelandic Online 1 (Menning), units 1-2
- Week 2** (May 16-20): Icelandic Online 1 (Menning), units 3-4
- Week 3** (May 23-27): Icelandic Online 1 (Menning), units 5-6; EXAM (May 27)
- Week 4** (May 30-June 3): Icelandic Online 2, units 1-3
- Week 5** (June 6-10): Icelandic Online 2, units 4-5
- Week 6** (June 13-15): Review; FINAL EXAM (June 15)