

HY121: Introduction to Medieval History: Vikings and Normans
Dr Michael Potterton / Department of History / Maynooth University
Semester I, 2019–20

Syllabus

Aims

To introduce participants in the module to aspects of the history of the medieval world. To survey the expansion of the Scandinavian people commonly known as ‘Vikings’ into Europe, east and west, and beyond, and to survey the expansion of the Normans from Normandy to the Mediterranean and elsewhere, including Britain and Ireland.

Objectives

To acquaint students with the various regions in which the Vikings and Normans were active, and with the sources that inform us about the period.

Learning Outcomes

Students should develop a sound knowledge of the Viking and Norman worlds and an appreciation of the value and limitations of the various sources.

Lectures (subject to change)

1. Introduction to the module / Vikings
2. At home with the Vikings: Scandinavia in the early Viking Age
3. Viking ships
4. Vikings in the north Atlantic
5. Vikings in the east
6. Vikings on the Continent (west)
7. Vikings in Britain
8. Vikings in Ireland I
9. Vikings in Ireland II
10. Viking society
11. Viking economy
12. Summary and conclusions (Vikings)

13. Normans: Introduction and sources
14. Normans in Normandy
15. Normans in Italy & Sicily
16. Normans in north Africa
17. Normans in Britain
18. Normans in the eastern Mediterranean
19. Norman religion and the First Crusade
20. Normans in Ireland – I
21. Normans in Ireland – II
22. Norman architecture
23. Norman language & literature
24. Normans: Conclusion – what did the Normans ever do for us?

Lectures and Tutorials

24 x 1-hour lectures & 11 weekly tutorials. Attendance is essential – at lectures *and* tutorials
Lectures will take place in the *Iontas Lecture Theatre* on Mondays 1–2pm and Wednesdays 4–5pm

Moodle

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... handouts, announcements, links, outline notes etc. Any problems: contact moodlesupport@mu.ie

Assessment

35% of the assessment for this module is based on a 90-minute examination at the end of the semester (in mid-January) and 65% is on the basis of continuous assessment (five assignments):

1. Footnotes and bibliography exercise (5%)
2. 500-word summary of a book chapter: Jan Bill, 'Ships and seamanship' in Peter Sawyer (ed.), *The Oxford illustrated history of the Vikings* (Oxford, 1997), pp 182–201. To be graded on key points and themes (5%)
3. 2,000-word essay on 'The Vikings in Ireland' or 'Vikings in the north Atlantic' (20%)
4. 1,500-word critical review of book chapters: Trevor Rowley, *The Normans* (Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000), chs 1 & 2. To be graded on key points and themes, and on critical evaluation (15%)
5. 2,000-word essay on 'The Normans in England' or 'The sources for the history of the Normans' (20%)

More details about the assignments will be provided in tutorials. Assignments should be submitted directly to tutors during tutorial times.

Reading

This list is intended as a guide to alert students in this module to the existence of certain books of relevance to the subject. It is by no means an exhaustive listing (there is plenty more available), but it is a good start. It is recommended that students go to the library and browse the relevant sections (940.1 (medieval Europe); 940.12 (Vikings); 941.02–941.03; 941.5 (esp. 941.502–941.503); 942.01–941.02 (Viking England); 948.02–948.5; 936 (archaeology)). For your convenience, the MU library shelf-marks are provided in square brackets below. Some of the items are also available to buy in the University bookshop. Other works may be referred to or recommended in lectures. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your tutor.

(A) There are two principal items of **required reading** for the 'Vikings' section of this module:

Jones, Gwyn, *A history of the Vikings* (2nd edn, Oxford, 2001). [948.022/JON]

Sawyer, Peter (ed.), *The Oxford illustrated history of the Vikings* (Oxford, 1997). [948.022/SAW]

In addition, since the subject of women in the Viking Age is not covered in its own right in either of these surveys, students should consult

Jesch, Judith, *Women in the Viking Age* (Woodbridge, 1991). [940.1082/JES & 305.40948/JES]

There is an enormous body of general and more specialised publications on the Vikings. Students may usefully supplement the above required reading by consulting:

Clarke, H.B. and Ruth Johnson (eds), *Vikings in Ireland and beyond: before and after the Battle of Clontarf* (Dublin, 2015). [941.501/CLA]

Clarke, H.B., Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Ragnall Ó Floinn (eds), *Ireland and Scandinavia in the early Viking Age* (Dublin, 1998). [941.5/CLA]

Farrell, R.T. (ed.), *The Vikings* (London, 1982). [948.022/FAR]

Graham-Campbell, James, *The Viking world* (3rd edn, London, 2001). [948.022/GRA]

Roesdahl, Else, *The Vikings* (2nd edn, London, 1998). [948.022/ROE]

Sawyer, P.H., *Kings and Vikings: Scandinavia and Europe, AD700–1100* (London, 1982). [948.02/SAW]

Sawyer, P.H., *The age of the Vikings* (2nd edn, London, 1971). [948.022/VIK]

Sheehan, John and Ó Corráin, Donnchadh, *The Viking Age: Ireland and the West* (Dublin, 2010). [948.022/SHE]

Carroll, Jayne, S.H. Harrison and Gareth Williams, *The Vikings in Britain and Ireland* (London, 2014). [941.01/CAR]

(B) There are two principal items of **required reading** for the 'Normans' section of this module:

Chibnall, Marjorie, *The Normans* (Oxford, 2006). [909.04395/CHI; eBook]

Rowley, Trevor, *The Normans* (Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000). [944.202/ROW; eBook]

There is an enormous body of general and more specialised publications on the Normans. Students may usefully supplement the above required reading by consulting:

Baker, Timothy, *The Normans* (New York, 1966). [942.02/BAK]

Cosgrove, Art (ed.), *A new history of Ireland, ii: medieval Ireland, 1169–1534* (Oxford, 1987; repr., 1993). [941.501/NEW + REF941.501/NEW]

Curtis, Edmund, *A history of medieval Ireland from 1086 to 1513* (London, 1938). [941.5/CUR]

Davis, H.W.C., *England under the Normans and Angevins, 1066–1272* (London, 1924).
[942.02/DAV]

Davis, R.H.C., *The Normans and their myth* (London, 1976). [940.146/DAV]

Douglas, D.C., *The Norman achievement* (London, 1972). [940.146/DOU]

Frame, Robin, *Colonial Ireland, 1169–1369* (new edn, Dublin, 2012). [941.5/HEL]

Golding, Brian, *Conquest and colonisation: the Normans in Britain, 1066–1100* (Basingstoke, 2001). [942.02/GOL]

Green, J.A., *Forging the kingdom: power in English society, 973–1189* (Cambridge, 2017).
[941.02/GRE]

Hicks, Leonie, *A short history of the Vikings* (London, 2016). [940.1/HIC]

Loyn, H.R., *The Norman conquest* (London, 1962). [941.02/LOY]

Lydon, James, *The lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages* (new edn, Dublin, 2003). [941.503/LYD]

O'Keefe, Tadhg, *Medieval Ireland: an archaeology* (Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000).
[941.503/OKE]

Richter, Michael, *Medieval Ireland: the enduring tradition* (Dublin, 1988). [941.5/NGHI]

Riley-Smith, Jonathan (ed.), *The Oxford illustrated history of the Crusades* (Oxford, 1995).
[909.07/RIL]

Rowley, Trevor, *The Norman heritage, 1066–1200* (London, 1983). [942.02/ROW]

Warren, W.L., *The governance of Norman and Angevin England, 1086–1282* (London, 1987).
[941.02/WAR]

For a schedule of lectures, tutorials and assignment deadlines, PTO

Michael Potterton, September 2019

HY121: Introduction to Medieval History: Vikings and Normans SCHEDULE				
Week	Date	Lecture	Tutorial	Assignment
1	23 Sept. 25 Sept.	1. Introduction 2. At home with the Vikings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tutorials Sign up for tutorials this week 	
2	30 Sept. 2 Oct.	3. Viking ships 4. Vikings in the north Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First meetings of tutorial groups Introductions: tutor gives e-mail address; each student sends an e-mail Undergraduate Handbook review Week 1 lectures review Briefing on Assignment 1: Footnotes and bibliography exercise (5%) 	
3	7 Oct. 9 Oct.	5. Vikings in the east 6. Vikings on the Continent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2 lectures review Briefing on Assignment 2: 500-word summary of book chapter (5%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Assignment 1 to Tutor
4	14 Oct. 16 Oct.	7. Vikings in Britain 8. Vikings in Ireland I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3 lectures review Review of Assignment 1 Briefing on Assignment 3: 2,000-word (Vikings) essay (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of Assignment 1 by Tutor Submission of Assignment 2 to Tutor
5	21 Oct. 23 Oct.	9. Vikings in Ireland II 10. Viking society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4 lectures review Review of Assignment 2 Review of progress on Assignment 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of Assignment 2 by Tutor
28 Oct. –1 Nov. – Study Week – No Lectures or Tutorials				
6	4 Nov. 6 Nov.	11. Viking economy 12. Summary & conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5 lectures review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Assignment 3 to Tutor
7	11 Nov. 13 Nov.	13. Normans: Introduction 14. Normans in Normandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Assignment 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of Assignment 3 by Tutor
8	18 Nov. 20 Nov.	15. Normans in Italy & Sicily 16. Normans in North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 7 lectures review Briefing on Assignment 4: 1,500-word critical review (15%) 	
9	25 Nov. 27 Nov.	17. Normans in Britain 18. Normans in the eastern Med.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 8 lectures review Review of progress on Assignment 4 	
10	2 Dec. 4 Dec.	19. Norman religion & Crusades 20. Normans in Ireland – I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 9 lectures review Briefing for Assignment 5: 2,000-word (Normans) essay (20%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Assignment 4 to Tutor
11	9 Dec. 11 Dec.	21. Normans in Ireland – II 22. Norman architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 10 lectures review Review of Assignment 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of Assignment 4 by Tutor
12	16 Dec. 18 Dec.	23. Norman language & literature 24. Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 11 lectures review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Assignment 5 to Tutor