

HY121: Introduction to Medieval History: Vikings and Normans [7.5cr]

Dr Colmán Etchingham
Dr Michael Potterton

Syllabus

Aim: 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

- 1 Vikings: Introductory
- 2 Scandinavian Homelands in the Early Viking Age
- 3 Vikings in Continental Western Europe
- 4 Vikings in Britain
- 5 Vikings in Ireland
- 6 Vikings, Eastern Europe and the Arab World
- 7 Vikings in the North Atlantic, Iceland and America
- 8 Law, Politics and Viking Society
- 9 Viking Women
- 10 Viking Ships and Naval Prowess
- 11 Viking Economics: Captives, Silver, Trade and Towns
- 12 Vikings: Conclusion

- 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?

Assessment Requirements

65% of the assessment for this module is based on continuous assessment and 35% on the basis of an examination.

Dr Colmán Etchingham, Dr Michael Potterton — September 2017

Week	Mon. & Wed. (Wed. HY121K)	Lectures	Tutorial	Submissions to and Returns by Tutor
1	18 Sept. 20 Sept.	1. Introductory. 2. Scandinavian Homelands in the Early Viking Age.	No Tutorial. Signing Up in First Week.	
2	25 Sept. 27 Sept.	3. Vikings in Continental Western Europe. 4. Vikings in Britain.	1. First Meetings of Tutorial Groups. 2. Introductions: Tutor gives e-mail address and requests each student to send an e-mail. 3. Undergraduate Handbook Review. 4. Week 1 Lectures Review. 5. Briefing on Assignment 1: Footnotes and Bibliography Exercise (5%).	
3	2 Oct. 4 Oct.	5. Vikings in Ireland 6. Vikings, Eastern Europe and the Arab World	1. Week 2 Lectures Review. 2. Briefing on Assignment 2: 1-2 Page Summary of Article or Book Chapter. To be graded on key points and themes (5%)	Submission of Assignment 1 to Tutor.
4	9 Oct. 11 Oct.	7. Vikings in the North Atlantic, Iceland and America 8. Law, Politics and Viking Society	1. Week 3 Lectures Review. 2. Review of Assignment 1. 3. Briefing on Assignment 3: 2000-Word Essay on 'Scandinavian Homelands in the Early Viking Age' or 'Vikings in the North Atlantic, Iceland and America' (20%)	Return of Assignment 1 by Tutor Submission of Assignment 2 to Tutor
5	16 Oct. 18 Oct.	9. Viking Women 10. Viking Ships and Naval Prowess	1. Week 4 Lectures Review 2. Review of Assignment 2. 3. Review of Progress on Assignment 3	Return of Assignment 2 by Tutor
6	23 Oct. 25 Oct.	11. Viking Economics: Captives, Silver, Trade and Towns 12. Vikings: Conclusion	Week 5 Lectures Review	Submission of Assignment 3 to Tutor

	<i>30 Oct. to 3 Nov. inclusive</i>	Study Week	No Tutorial Preparatory Reading for Critical Review of Article or Chapter?	
7	6 Nov. 8 Nov.	13. Normans: Introduction 14. Normans in Normandy	Review of Assignment 3	Return of Assignment 3 by Tutor
8	13 Nov. 15 Nov.	15. Normans in Italy and Sicily 16. Normans in North Africa	Week 7 Lectures Review Briefing for Assignment 4: 1500-Word Critical Review of Article or Book Chapter. To be graded on key points and themes and on critical evaluation (15%)	
9	20 Nov. 22 Nov.	17. Normans in Britain 18. Normans in the Eastern Mediterranean	Week 8 Lectures Review Review of Progress on Assignment 4	
10	27 Nov. 29 Nov.	19. Norman Religion & the First Crusade 20. Normans in Ireland – I	Week 9 Lectures Review Briefing for Assignment 5: 2000-Word Essay on ‘Norman Expansion in the Eleventh & Twelfth Centuries’ or ‘Anglo- Norman Ireland — the Archaeological Evidence’ (20%)	Submission of Assignment 4 to Tutor
11	4 Dec. 6 Dec.	21. Normans in Ireland – II 22. Norman Architecture	1. Week 10 Lectures Review 2. Review of Assignment 4	Return of Assignment 4 by Tutor
12	11 Dec. 13 Dec.	23. Norman Language & Literature 24. Conclusion — What did the Normans ever do for us?	1. Week 11 Lectures Review	Submission of Assignment 5 to Tutor

HY121: Introduction to Medieval History: Vikings and Normans — Reading

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

Peter H. Sawyer (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Vikings* (Oxford, 1997)

Gwyn Jones, *A History of the Vikings* (2nd edn, Oxford, 2001)

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

Judith Jesch, *Women in the Viking Age* (Woodbridge, 1991)

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

Howard B. Clarke *et al.* (eds), *Ireland and Scandinavia in the Early Viking Age* (Dublin, 1998)

Robert T. Farrell (ed.), *The Vikings* (London, 1982)

James A. Graham-Campbell, *The Viking World* (3rd edn, London 2001)

Peter H. Sawyer, *The Age of the Vikings* (2nd edn, London, 1971)

Peter H. Sawyer, *Kings and Vikings: Scandinavia and Europe, A.D. 700–1100* (London, 1982)

Else Roesdahl, *The Vikings* (2nd edn, London, 1998)

Other works may be referred to or recommended in lectures.

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

Marjorie Chibnall, *The Normans* (Oxford, 2006)

Trevor Rowley, *The Normans* (Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000)

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

R. Allen Brown, *The Normans* (2nd edn, Woodbridge, 1994)

Richard F. Cassady, *The Norman Achievement* (London, 1986)

Robin Frame, *Colonial Ireland, 1169–1369* (new edn, Dublin, 2012)

Christopher Gravett and David Nicolle, *The Normans: Warrior Knights and their Castles* (Oxford, 2006)

John Le Patourel, *The Norman Empire* (Oxford, 1976)

James Lydon, *The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages* (new edn, Dublin, 2003)

Tadhg O’Keeffe, *Medieval Ireland: an Archaeology* (Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000)

Jonathan Riley-Smith (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades* (Oxford, 1995)

Michael Wood, *Domesday: a Search for the Roots of England* (new edn, London, 1999)

Other works may be referred to or recommended in lectures.