

Fall 2009

HISTORY 328
THE VIKINGSWARD
Brock Hall 408C
James-Ward@utc.edu
Off. Hrs. MWF 9.30-10;
MWF 11-12**REQUIRED GREAT books:**Else Rosedahl, The VikingsGwyn Jones, Egil's SagaMagnus Magnusson, The Vinland SagasKirsten Seaver, The Frozen Echo**This adventuresome course will be divided into three parts:**

1. The possessor of the high seat will deliver lectures in a fine fashion and allow discussion at his whim.
2. The hirdsmen will write a solidly researched essay with five free points for anyone who will write it in runic.
3. Marauders will cut and hew their way through two exiting tests.

The Fascinating Details:**Chronology of lecture topics will look something like this:**

- 1-Scope of the Age
- 2-Pre-expansion Vikings at home
- 3-Expansion forces
 - a. Religion
 - b. Politics
 - c. Shipbuilding and Navigation
 - d. Economy
 - e. Trade with Russia and the East

Test I: Responsible for Jones, Rosedahl, and Ward

- 4-Expansion:
 - a. Continental Europe-watch Paris burn!
 - b. Great Britain
 - c. Ireland
 - d. Iceland
5. High Daegr:
 - a. Art
 - b. Literature

c. Christianity

6- Ultima Thule:

- a. Greenland
- b. Vinland

Test II: Responsible for Rosedahl, Magnusson, Seaver, Jones, and Ward (Test will be on December 2 at 11am).

THE ESSAY:

Select one of the intriguing topics below, consult primary and secondary sources, and determine the truth as you perceive it. Your paper should present a broad background to the topic, the accepted interpretations, any revisionist theories, and your own reconstruction of what happened. The papers **MUST** be typed and contain all the usual scholarly apparatus. Any essay over 8.6 pages long with less than 8 cited sources will be wadded up, thrown in a long ship, set afire, and pushed out into the UTC pool to burn!

- 1- Was there any Viking influence on the English language?
2. What modern political institutions owe their existence to the Vikings?
3. How did the Vikings influence English common law?
4. What modern place names derive from the Norse?
5. Was the Danevirke Denmark's Maginot Line?
6. Draw a character sketch of two of the following:
 - a. Thor
 - b. Frey
 - c. Odin
7. Were any of the Viking's "minor gods" significant?
8. Are there any parallels between the Garden of Eden story and the Vikings' beliefs about the creation of gods and man?
9. How talented were the Viking ironsmiths?
10. Why did Viking art styles change over the centuries?
11. What did the Vikings eat in Greenland and Vinland?
12. What did the excavations in York tell us about Viking cities?
13. What do Viking excavations in Dublin, Ireland, tell us about Viking urban life?
14. What sort of town was Hedeby?
15. Describe in detail Viking railroads.
16. Did the Vikings win England in 1066?
17. Make a case for the most likely location of Vinland.

18. What happened to Greenland's Western settlement?
19. What happened to Greenland Eastern Settlement?
20. How powerful was the Catholic Church in Greenland?
21. What was Trelleborg?
22. Is the Newport Tower a Viking artifact?
23. Is the Kensington Stone a modern forgery?
24. How accurate is the Vinland Map?
25. Did the Mandan Indians enjoy contact with the Vikings?
26. Did Helge Ingstad find Vinland at Aux la Meadows?
27. What do skeletons unearthed in Greenland tell about Norse living conditions there?
28. What do Eskimo legends tell us about Vikings in the New World?
29. Did the Vikings settle around Ungava Bay?
30. Was there a wood shortage in the Greenland colonies?
31. Why were virtually all of the great sagas written by Icelanders?
32. What other ethnic groups have claimed to discover the New World? Are their claims believable?
33. Choose any two sagas and compare their themes with Egil's Saga.
34. Explain Greenland's architecture.
35. What kind of relationships did the Vikings have with the Eskimos?
36. What is the story behind the Scandinavian coin found in Maine?
37. Why did Viking sea power decline in the 12th and 13th centuries?
38. What did we learn from the five Viking ships found in Roskilde Fjord?
39. What do the ruins at Gardar tell us about religious life in Greenland?
40. How do Norlund's finds alter our view of Greenland's last days?
41. What type of boats did other European peoples have when the Vikings ruled the seas?
42. At what size would Greenland's population have been too small to reproduce itself?
43. Evaluate the flora and fauna of Greenland. Were they adequate to support society?
44. Explain the weather changes in Greenland from 1000 to 1500 and their effects on the settlers.

45. What alcoholic drinks did the Vikings have and how did they make them? What social uses did the drinks have?
46. Explain Adam of Bremen's view of the North Atlantic world.
47. What Viking artifacts have been discovered in Eskimo camps? How did they get there?
48. Is Hagar the Horrible an accurate representation of Viking life and ideas?
49. Are Eric Neilson's novels, Haakon, accurate representations of Viking life and religious beliefs?
50. How easy was it for Viking to become Christians?
51. What have we learned from the excavation of the Sandnes farm in Greenland?
52. How did so few Norsemen conquer so much of the world?

DEADLINES:

This course entails a lot of hard sailing (if you will pardon the pun) so if we are to successfully complete our voyage (could not resist) we must establish a hard and fast schedule. As occupant of the high seat, I hereby decree the following:

- August 24- Must have selected an essay topic
- October 5- Outline and bibliography for essay due
- November 18- Essay due (one letter grade off for each day late!!!!)

GRADES:

Test 1	=25%
Test II	=25%
Essay	=40%
Class discussion	=10%
Lagniappe	= <u>.0486%</u>

100.0486 (The Vikings were not a precise people)

NOTE: If you have a disability which may require assistance or accommodations please speak with me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office of Student Affairs (425-4534).