

ANTH 398

LIFE & DEATH IN THE VIKING WORLD

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erin McGuire

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Raiders and Traders, Pirates and Farmers – The Vikings colour our view of the Middle Ages in a multitude of ways. The course takes a detailed look at the archaeological evidence for the people we call Vikings in the period defined rather broadly from c.800-1300 AD. A key focus of the course will be on materials and objects of the Viking Age, which we will explore through artifact studies and experimental archaeology. An important aspect of this course is challenging the misrepresentation of the Vikings by nationalist groups.

Skills Development

Aims

The aims of this course are:

- To examine the Viking Age using interdisciplinary source material with a focus on the archaeological record;
- To outline theoretical and interpretative approaches to the Norse migrations;
- To challenge the misrepresentation of the Viking Age by nationalist groups; and
- To develop communication skills for diverse circumstances and audiences.

Learning objectives

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

- Explain the causes and consequences of the Norse expansion;
- Describe the nature the Norse expansion and settlement in various regions;
- Critically assess the evidence used in the investigation and interpretation the Viking Age (e.g. archaeological, historical and literary sources);
- Develop effective research design, including defining problems, generating research questions and formulating appropriate methodologies to collect and analyze data, and communicate results; and
- Write effectively for diverse audiences and in different genres (proposal writing, technical reports, social media, and writing for public).

NOTE: This course will be taught as a hybrid of face to face and online in the Summer 2022 semester. There will be hands-on components, especially in the first weeks of the course. A team-based project is an essential element of this course, so please contact me if you are anticipating any extended absences. It may not be possible to accommodate them.