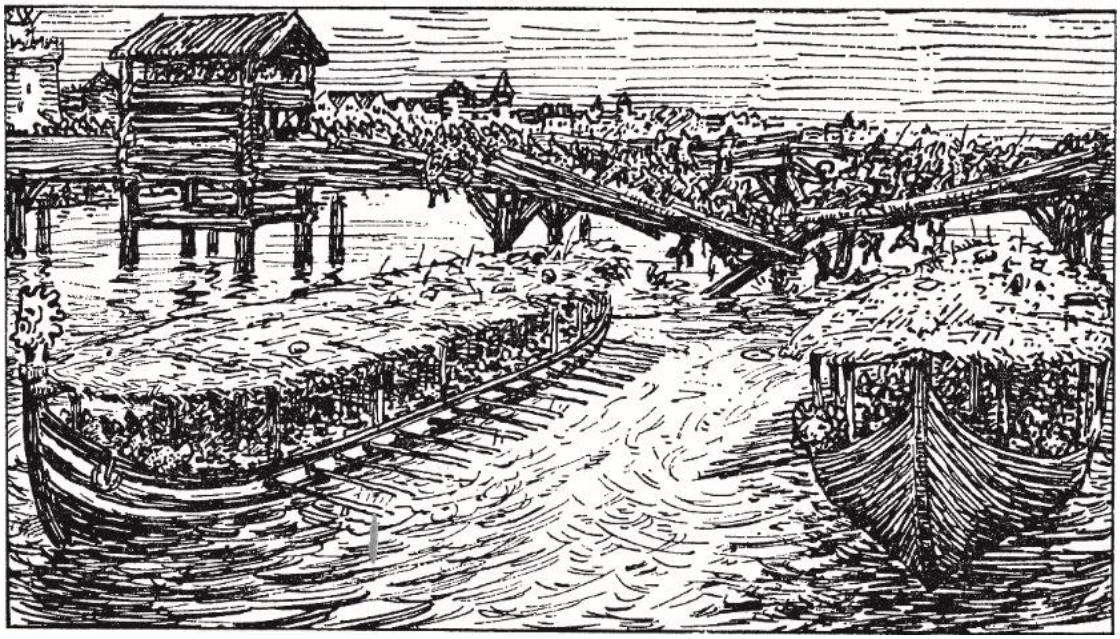
For Teachers. Sample First Semester Course in Old Norse. Please feel free to change or alter as you see fit. This is the first course of a two semester course series. If one wishes just a single semester, alter to include more lessons and move a little faster. See also the sample Old Norse course syllabi in quarters. For 3 or more meetings a week, adjust.



Viking ships of Olaf the Stout (St. Olaf) attack and pull down London Bridge, the source of the children's song, *London Bridge is Falling Down*.

BEGINNING OLD NORSE I

Scandinavian 132A – Fall XXXX
Monday & Wednesday 2:00 - 3:15, Royce Hall 148
Course Catalogue ID# XXXXXXXX

Prof. Jesse Byock
Scandinavian Section, UCLA
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Dept. Office: 212 Royce Hall
Office Hours at 328 Royce
Wednesdays 1-1:50 and by appointment
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This course teaches Old Norse and runic writing, the language of the Vikings. It offers an overview of the Old Norse written sources and is an introduction to the Icelandic sagas, as well as the history and culture of the Viking Age. The student learns to read Old Norse and Old Icelandic sagas, runes, and mythological texts. We use a new textbook series Viking Language 1 and 2, with readings, grammar exercises, MP3 download pronunciation exercises, and Quizlet web exercises. The lessons will leave you with insight into the myths, speech, and literature of Old Scandinavia. We will read short and long passages, as well as mythic and heroic poetry. You will be introduced to one of the great literatures of the Western Medieval World.

The course has no prerequisites, and the student needs no previous knowledge of other languages. In addition, Old Norse / Old Icelandic is taught in a way that prepares the student to learn Modern Icelandic. This course serves as an entry level class for more advanced study of Viking and Old English literature, history, mythology, archaeology, language, and society.

Grading:

Grades are based primarily on class preparation, grammar homework, cumulative quizzes and vocabulary quizzes:

15% Translation preparation and vocabulary
15% Grammar homework
60% Quizzes
10% Participation

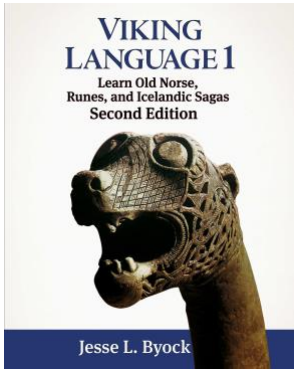
Required Texts:

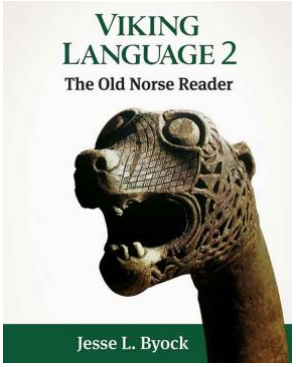
- Byock, Jesse. *Viking Language 1: Learn Old Norse, Runes, and Icelandic Sagas*. Jules William Press, 2013. Available at Amazon.com and bookstores.
- --------. *Viking Language 2: The Old Norse Reader*. Jules William Press, 2013. Available at Amazon.com and bookstores.
- Viking Language 1: Audio Lessons 1-8 (MP3 download)*
  *The two MP3 Audio Lesson albums (1-8 and 9-15) are available for download on Amazon, iTunes, and cdbaby
- Viking Language learning modules, free on Quizlet

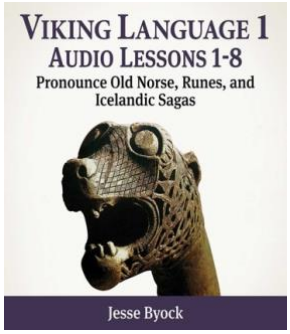
Readings and Homework:

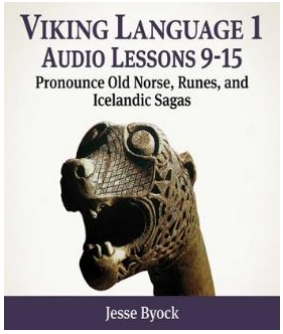
All coursework is due on the appointed day (meeting) as noted on the syllabus. Students should be prepared to translate the reading passages in the assigned lessons. The lessons of *Viking Language 1* are coordinated with:

- **Viking Language Audio Files**. Use the respective audio file each time you begin a new reading passage. The audio files teach both pronunciation and vocabulary.









- **Viking Language learning modules on Quizlet** (https://quizlet.com/class/1806241/). For each meeting, study the vocabulary list and take lesson test on Quizlet. The Viking Language Quizlet lessons are prepared by Prof. Lee Forester working with the Viking Language Old Norse Project. The Quizlet vocabulary lists concentrate on teaching the 246 most frequent „saga words“ taught in the Viking Language lessons. We suggest starting with Flashcards, followed by Speller, Learn, and Test. Have fun with the games.

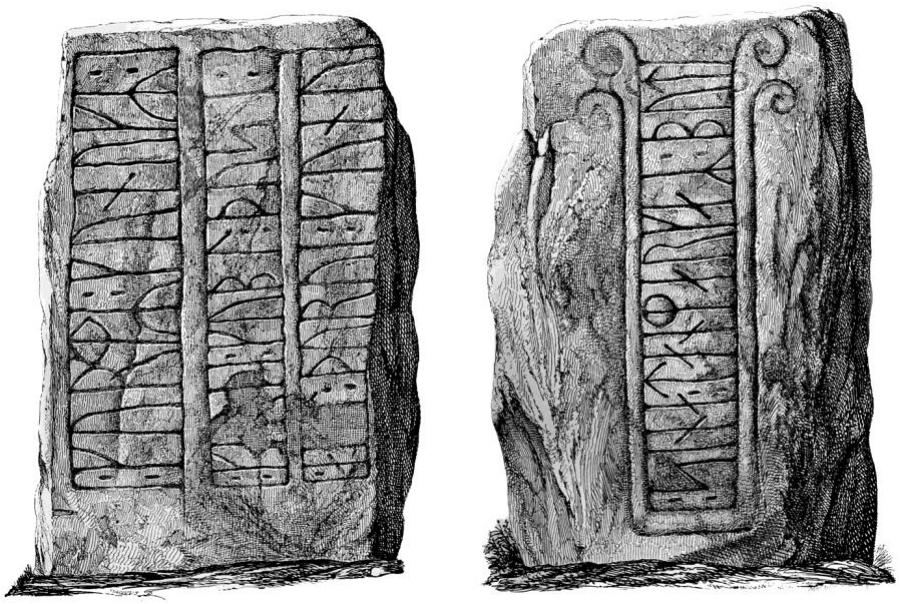
Schedule of Meetings:

MEETINGS 1 & 2 (dates, week 1)	**Meeting 1. Introduction to Old Norse.** Readings: Introduction to Viking Language 1: Learn Old Norse, Runes, and Icelandic Sagas, pp. 19-38 (About Vikings, Icelandic Sources, and Scandinavian Runes) **Meeting 2. Lesson 1: Norse Settlers in Greenland and Vinland.** Readings: Lesson 1, including ON Passages, Grammar Explanations, and Exercises. Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 1-3; Quizlet Vocabulary List 1
MEETINGS 3 & 4 (dates, week 2)	**Meeting 3. Lesson 2: Norse Settlers in Greenland and Vinland.** Readings: Lesson 2.1-2.14 Homework: Audio Lessons track 4: Quizlet Vocabulary List 2 **Meeting 4.** Homework: 2.15-2.22. Prepare for short Quiz 1 on lessons 1-2.
MEETINGS 5 & 6 (dates, week 3)	**Meeting 5. Lesson 3: Denmark: Runes and the First Viking State.** **In class, Quiz 1 on lessons 1-2.** Readings: 3.1-3.13 Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 5-8; Quizlet Vocabulary List 3 **Meeting 6.** Readings and Exercises: 3.14-3.26
MEETINGS 7 & 8 (dates, week 4)	**Meeting 7. Lesson 4: Kings and Heroes.** Readings: 4.1-4.16 Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 9-11; Quizlet Vocabulary List 4 **Meeting 8.** Readings and Exercises: 4.17-4.27
MEETINGS 9 & 10 (dates, week 5)	**Meeting 9. Lesson 5: Sweden: A Family Runestone.** Readings: 5.1-5.15 Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 12-13; Quizlet Vocabulary List 5 **Meeting 10.** Homework: Audio Lessons track 14 Readings and Exercises: 5.16-5.30

	Reading Chapter 1. From the Kings' and Family Sagas RC. 1. London Bridge Pulled Down RC. 2: Icelandic Chieftains: The Opening Chapter of *Njal's Saga* Homework: Translate such readings using the vocabulary at the rear of the book
MEETINGS 11 & 12 (dates, week 6)	**Meeting 11. Lesson 6: Sacral Kingship in Ancient Scandinavia.** Readings: 6.1-6.10 Homework: Audio Lessons track 15; Quizlet Vocabulary List 6 **QUIZ 2**: lessons 1-5 **Meeting 12.** Readings: 6.11-6.25 Homework: Homework: Audio Lessons track 16 **Reading Chaper 2. Vikings Attack Njal´s Sons and Gunnar´s Faithful Hound** Readings: RC. 3 - RC 4B.4
MEETINGS 13 & 14 (dates, week 7)	**Meeting 13. Lesson 7: Norway's Harald Fairhair and His Son Eirik Bloodaxe.** Readings: 7.1-7.11 Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 17 and 18; Quizlet Vocabulary List 7 **Meeting 14.** Readings: 7.12-7.25 Homework: Audio Lessons track 19
MEETINGS 15 & 16 (dates, week 8)	**Meeting 15. Viking Language 2: Chapter 2. Creation of the World Ymir, Yggdrasill, and Asgard** Readings: Mythological Readings and 2.1 Creation **QUIZ 3**: lessons 3-7 **Meeting 16.** Readings: 2.2. The Norse Cosmos and the World Tree
MEETINGS 17 & 18 (dates, week 9)	**Meeting 17. Lesson 8: Harald Hardradi in Constantinople.** Readings: 8.1-8.11 Homework: Audio Lessons track 20; Quizlet Vocabulary List 8 **Meeting 18** Readings: 8.12-8.26 Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 21 and 23.
MEETINGS 19 & 20 (dates, week 10)	**Meeting 19. Viking Language 2: Chapter 2 and 3** Readings 2.3. First half of Loki and Svadilfari-The Walls of Asgard **Meeting 20.** Readings: 2.3 Finish Loki and Svadilfari
MEETINGS 21 & 22 (dates, week 11)	**Meeting 21. Lesson 9: Raiding in the West** Readings and exercises: 9.1- 9.11, Audio Lessons and Quizlet

	Meeting 22. Finish Lesson 9 Readings and Exercises: 9.12-9.25 Study for Quiz 4
MEETING 23 & 24 (dates, week 12)	**Meeting 23. Quiz 4: Lessons 6-9 and Readings from Viking Language 2, Chapter 3** **Meeting 24. Viking Language 2: Chapter 3, Ragnarok, The Battle at the World´s End**
MEETING 25 & 26 (dates, week 13)	**Meeting 25. Lesson 10: Beached Whales in Iceland** Readings and exercises: 10.1-10.11, Audio Lessons and Quizlet In Viking Language 2, Chapter 12: Eddic Poetry 12.1-12.2 **Meeting 26. Fisnish Lesson 10** Readings and exercises: 10.11-10.25
MEETING 27 & 28 (dates, week 14)	**Meeting 27. Viking Language 2: Chapters 12 and 4** Readings: 12.3 to end of chapter. Eddic Titles; Eddic Tradition − Long lines and Half Lines; and Vǫluspá (The Sybil´S Prophecy) Stanzas 1-13 **Meeting 28. Viking Language 1**: **Lesson 11. The Endless Battle** Readings and exercises: 11.1 − 11.16, Audio and Quizlet
MEETING 29 & 30 (dates, week 15)	**Meeting 29. Finish Exercises Lesson 11** **Meeting 30. Review**. Study for Final Quiz 5 focusing on Lessons 8-11
FINALS (dates, week 16)	**FINAL, QUIZ 5**: Lessons 8-11

Along with the Icelandic Sagas and the language of the Viking Age, this course teaches runes. Runes could be dangerous. The sagas tell us: *A person should not carve runes, unless he well knows how to control them* (Skalat maðr rúnar rísta, nema ráða vel kunni).



The Runestone, front and back, of King Gorm the Old (Gormr inn gamli) at Jelling, Denmark. Gorm was the last pagan king of Denmark. He founded the Viking Age Jelling Dynasty. Runes are the closest that we come to the speech of the Vikings (from *Viking Language 1*, Lesson 3).