

**Sample Second Quarter Course in Old Norse.** Please feel free to change or alter as you see fit. This course, as it is arranged, is the second of a two semester course series. If one wishes to have just a single quarter, please alter to include more lessons.



**Figure Error! No text of specified style in document..1. The Ramsund Runestone, Sweden.** This large carving on the flat side of a sloping rock outcrop portrays the tale of Sigurðr Fafnisbani, the slayer or bane (*bani*) of the dragon Fafnir.

## CONTINUING OLD NORSE II

**Scandinavian 132B – Spring XXXX**

**Monday & Wednesday 2:00 - 3:15, Royce Hall 148**

**Course Catalogue ID# XXXXXXXX**

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**Scandinavian 132B is the second installment of the Viking Language course series, which teaches the Old Norse language and runic writing of the Vikings.** It offers a continued overview of the Old Norse written sources, including runes, and is an introduction to the Icelandic sagas and the Viking Age with a more indepth focus on the literary and poetic tradition of the ancient Icelanders. The student learns to read Old Norse / Old Icelandic from sagas, runes, and mythological texts. This course uses the Viking Language textbook series as before, which include Icelandic sagas and the Old Scandinavian myths form one of the world's great literatures, and these Old Norse writings, from which we will read short and long passages, are the largest body of vernacular sources describing life in the Western Medieval World.

This course serves as a primer for more advanced study of Viking 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

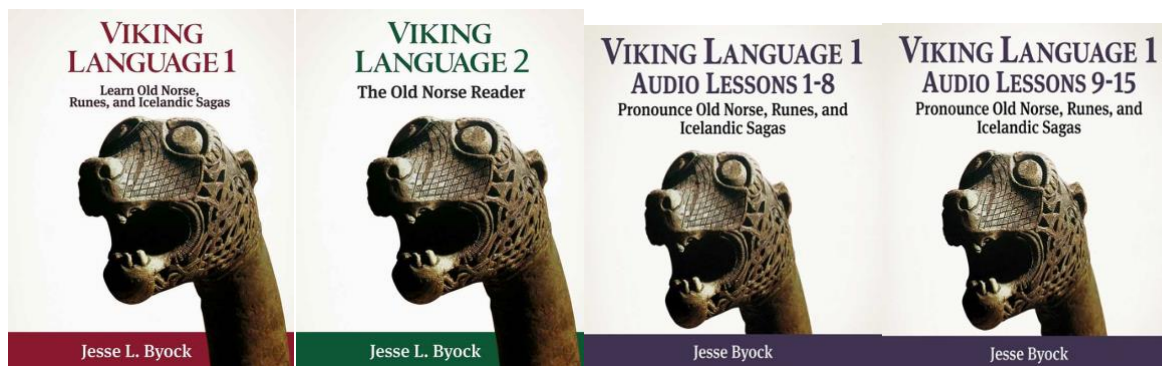
### Required Texts:

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

### 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 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.

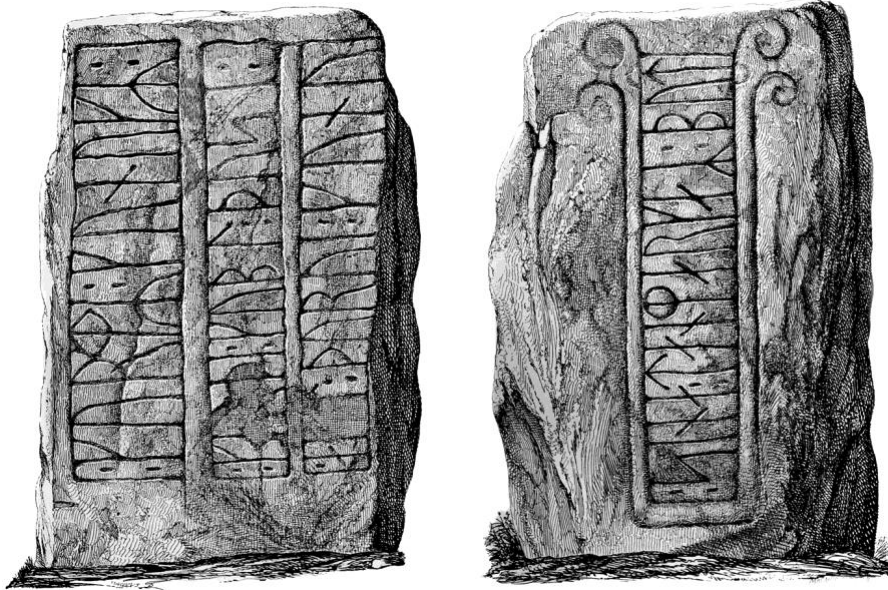
**Schedule of Meetings:**

<p>MEETINGS 1 &amp; 2 (dates, week 1)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 1. Viking Language 1: Lesson 10: Beached Whales in Iceland.</b>                  Readings: Lesson 10.1-10.14                  Homework: Audio Lessons track 10.2; 10.13;10.17: Quizlet Vocabulary List 10  <b>Meeting 2.</b>                  Readings: 10.15-10.25                  Homework: Audio Lessons track 10.17, 10.25a &amp; 10.25b</p>
<p>MEETINGS 3 &amp; 4 (dates, week 2)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 3. Viking Language 2: Chapter 2: Creation of the World: Ymir, Yggdrasil, and Asgard</b>  <b>QUIZ 1:</b> Futhark runes review and translation exercise  <b>Meeting 4. Viking Language 2: Chapter 3: Ragnarok: The Battle at the World’s End</b></p>
<p>MEETINGS 5 &amp; 6 (dates, week 3)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 5. Lesson 11: The Endless Battle.</b>                  Readings: Lesson 11.1-11.12                  Homework: Audio Lessons track 11.1  <b>QUIZ 2:</b> lessons 9-10  <b>Meeting 6. . Lesson 11 Continued.</b>                  Readings: 11.13-11.28                  Homework: Audio Lessons track 11.12; Quizlet Vocabulary List 11</p>
<p>MEETINGS 7 &amp; 8 (dates, week 4)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 7. Viking Language 2: Chapter 13: Eddic Meters.</b>                  Readings: 13.1-13.2                  Homework: Translation exercises (pp. 204-206)  <b>Meeting 8. Viking Language 2: Chapter 14: The Lay of Thrym.</b>                  Readings: 14.1-14.3</p>
<p>MEETINGS 9 &amp; 10 (dates, week 5)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 9. Lesson 12: Feud in Iceland’s East Fjords.</b>                  Readings: 12.1-12.19                  Homework: Audio Lessons tracks 12.1, 12.9; Quizlet Vocabulary List 12  <b>Meeting 10. Viking Language 2: Chapter 8: Greenland and Vinland</b>                  Readings: 8.1-8.5                  Homework: Audio Lessons track 12.19a &amp; 12.19b</p>

<p>MEETINGS 11 &amp; 12 (dates, week 6)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 11. Lesson 13: Spike-Helgi Kills a Thief in Weapon's Fjord.</b>  Readings: 13.1-13.10  Homework: Audio Lessons track 13.1, 13.13; Quizlet Vocabulary List 13</p> <p><b>Meeting 12. Lesson 13 Continued.</b>  Readings: 13.11-13.20  Homework: Homework: Audio Lessons track 13.20a &amp; 13.20b</p>
<p>MEETINGS 13 &amp; 14 (dates, week 7)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 13. Viking Language 2: Chapter 10: Hrafnkel's Saga</b>  Readings: Saga and Feud (pp. 138-140) Kapítuli 1-5 (pp. 140-156)  Homework: Translation Kapítuli 3 (pp. 141-149)</p> <p><b>QUIZ 3:</b> lessons 11-12</p> <p><b>Meeting 14. Finish Hrafnkel's Saga</b>  Readings: Kapítuli 6-10 (pp. 156-164)  Homework: Kapítuli 8 (pp. 158-162)</p>
<p>MEETINGS 15 &amp; 16 (dates, week 8)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 15. Lesson 14: Norse Mythology and the World Tree Yggdrasil.</b>  Readings: 14.1-14.6  Homework: Audio Lessons track 14.2, 14.3; Quizlet Vocabulary List 14</p> <p><b>Meeting 16. Lesson 14 Continued.</b>  Readings: 14.7-14.10  Homework: Audio Lessons track 14.16a &amp; 14.16b; Exercizes 14.11-14.16</p>
<p>MEETINGS 17 &amp; 18 (dates, week 9)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 17. Lesson 15: The Saga of King Hrolfr Kraki.</b>  Readings: 15.1-15.14  Homework: Audio Lessons track 15.1, 15.11, 15.13; Quizlet Vocabulary List 15</p> <p><b>Meeting 18. Lesson 15 Continued.</b>  Readings: 15.15-15.22  Homework: Review for Final (Quiz 4: Lessons 13-15)</p>
<p>MEETINGS 19 &amp; 20 (dates, week 10)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 19. Viking Language 2: Chapter 11: Runes in Viking and Medieval Times.</b>  Readings: 11.1-11.10  Homework: Translation exercizes (pp. 176-183)</p> <p><b>Meeting 20. Chapter 16: Skaldic Poetry.</b>  Readings: 16.1-16.6  Homework: Study for Final Quiz</p>
<p>FINAL (dates, week 11)</p>	<p><b>FINAL, QUIZ 4:</b> Viking Language, Chapter 3 translations</p>

Along with the Icelandic Sagas and the language of the Viking Age, this course teaches **runes**. The sagas warn us:

*A person should not carve runes, unless he knows well 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.

**What are Runes?** Ancient Scandinavians wrote in runes, and surviving **runic inscriptions** are a main source of historical and linguistic information about the Viking Age. Runes are an alphabet, not a pictographic or a syllabic script. Just as we might call our alphabet the ABCs, the runic alphabet was composed of runic letters. It was called the **futhark**, named after the first six runes or runic characters.

Carved on wood, stone, bone, antler, and metal, runes are found on weapons, jewelry and everyday items. Runes were used for identification, commemorating events, and the dead. People sent messages in runes, and they were used for magic. Runic inscriptions are the closest written sources to the speech of the Viking Age (from the textbook, *Viking Language 1*).