

Mythologies of the Vikings (10 ects) (Scandinavian languages and Literature, IÆK)

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The imaginary world of the Vikings is a vast and amazing landscape that continues to puzzle us. Their myths abound with powerful, tricky and enigmatic gods, forceful giants and an array of supernatural beings, large and small, which seem hard for the modern mind to grasp.

This course in Viking mythology focuses on the myths and legends, histories and tales of the Viking world, having its focus on eddic poetry, heroic sagas and the *The Prose Edda*. We will treat the difficult issues of the source material: that the originally oral mythology and legends are mainly preserved in medieval literature, and we will treat various themes such as gender, nature, worldview, belief. The focus will be on themes that are debated in current scholarship and on new scholarly insights. Language of instruction is English; Course plan is available end of August.

Background Readings

Lindow, John: *Norse Mythology. A Guide to the Gods, Heroes, Rituals, and Beliefs*, Oxford University Press, 2001

McTurk, Rory: *A Companion to Old Norse Icelandic Literature and Culture*, Blackwell Publishing, 2007.