

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	International History
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Saxon and Viking Culture in England
Course Code:	HST 5440
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to examine Saxon and Viking Society in England following the first Saxon invasions and settlement after the Fall of Rome. It concludes with the Battle of Hastings in 1066. This course will be taught as a series of lectures, seminars, and workshops. In addressing the history in England from 409-1066 historical sources will include literary works, archaeology, and art history. The majority of literary texts can be studied in translation and in the original (Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Old Norse and Anglo-Norman). Where possible classes will be supported by field trips, for example to the Saxon display at the British Museum.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To present a history of Saxon England from 409-1066 and the wider context of Viking influence in Europe
- To consider Saxon and Viking literature in its historical context
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

INTHST: 5A(i); 5A(ii); 5B(i); 5B(iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of historical processes as they pertain to how, when, and why the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came and settled
- Analyse primary and secondary materials in order to achieve a critical understanding of Anglo Saxon and Viking society and culture
- Present research in a convincing and accessible manner.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical
- thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Introduction: How Dark were the “Dark Ages”?
- The Coming of Augustine: The Arrival of Christianity in England
- Saxon politics, culture, religion, and mythology
- King Arthur: The Man and the Myth
- Viking Rule and Society
- Legacies: From Towns to Tolkien

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of the learning process. Where possible the course will make use of museums and collections within London.

Indicative Texts:

Williams, Gareth, Pentz, Peter and Wemhoff, Matthias (eds.) *Vikings: Life and Legend*. London: British Museum 2014.
Heaney, S. 1999. *Beowulf: A New Translation*. London: Faber and Faber.
Larrington, C. (translator) *The Poetic Edda*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
Stenton, F. *Anglo-Saxon England. The Oxford History of England Volume II*. Third Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971.

See syllabus for complete reading list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	