COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: CASS

Programme: History

***FHEQ* Level:**   5

Course Title: Saxon and Viking Culture in England

Course Code: HST 5440

Course Leader: Prof Dom Alessio

Student Engagement Hours: 120
Lectures: 22.5
Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: RISS Summer

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: ARW 4195

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 look at different sources for the interpretation of history
- To engage with a range of different critical approaches
- To examine intertextuality and influence in literary history and practice

Programme Outcomes:

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

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx

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 fora 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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee found at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-affairs/academic-standing.aspx.

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.

Bibliography:

Indicative Text(s):

Hindley, Geoffrey. *A Brief History of the Anglo-Saxons*. London: Constable and Robinson, 2006.
Oliver, Neil. *Vikings: a History.* London: Phoenix 2013.
Treharne, Elaine (ed.) Old and Middle English c.890–c.1450: An Anthology, 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
Williams, Gareth, Pentz, Peter and Wemhoff, Matthias (eds.) *Vikings: Life and Legend*. London: British Museum 2014.

Journals

Web Sites

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

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Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry