

## ST-The Vikings

Archaeology 200

Section: D100

Term: 2000 Spring

Instructor: Dr Erle Nelson  
Office: MPX 9627 or 9628  
Office telephone: 291-3673  
e-mail: erle\_nelson@sfu.ca

Afternoon course, Burnaby campus Course description:

This course will be a general study of Scandinavian society in the period from approximately 500 AD to 1100 AD. These people exerted enormous influence over Western Europe during that time -- an influence that is still reflected in modern European and North American societies. Much of the information on this time period comes from Archaeology, and so the emphasis will be Archaeological. However, since this is the period of the beginnings of Northern European history, some students may find it interesting to compare Archaeological and Historical reconstruction.

This course is intended for non-experts from all fields, and is given by a non-expert.

Topics will include:

1. The background -- an overview of the geography and prehistory of Scandinavia.
2. The Scandinavian Iron-Age -- setting the stage.
3. Viking life at home -- an overview of the Viking social and economic structure.
4. The ships -- an examination of the technological innovation that gave the Viking such an advantage over others.
5. Traders and raiders -- the Viking expeditions that sought wealth through peaceful trade and forceful looting.
6. The land-seekers -- Viking exploration and colonisation in Europe and North America.
7. Viking art, with a little on literature.
8. The Nation states -- the beginnings of the modern European states.

Grading: Several quizzes (30%), a paper on a topic of interest to the student (30%), and a final exam (40%), or as agreed at the outset of the course.

Required Texts: Roesdahl, Else 1991 (or newest edition) The Vikings Penguin Press ISBN 0 713 990481

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: none

Notes: Deferred grades will be given ONLY on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.