

**Sample Second Semester 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 semester, please alter to include more lessons. See also the sample Old Norse course syllabi in quarters.



**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 2

Scandinavian 132A – Spring XXXX

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

Course Catalogue ID# XXXXXXXXX

Prof. Jesse Byock  
Scandinavian Section, UCLA  
[www.viking.ucla.edu](http://www.viking.ucla.edu)  
[www.vikinglanguage.com](http://www.vikinglanguage.com)

Dept. Office: 212 Royce Hall  
Office Hours at 328 Royce  
Wednesdays 1-1:50 and by appointment  
[byock@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:byock@humnet.ucla.edu)

**This course teaches the Old Norse language and runic writing of the Vikings.** It offers an overview of the Old Norse written sources, including runes, and is an introduction to the Icelandic sagas and the Viking Age. The student learns to read Old Norse / Old Icelandic from sagas, runes, and mythological texts. We use a new textbook series Viking Language 1 and 2, with readings, grammar exercises, MP3 download pronunciation exercises, and Quizlet web exercises. The lessons in the Viking Language textbook include cultural sections and will leave you with insight into the multi-faceted society, language, and culture of the Vikings. 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.

The course has no prerequisites, and the student needs no previous knowledge of other languages. Old Norse/Old Icelandic is taught in a way that prepares the student to learn Modern Icelandic. This course, Scandinavian 132A, serves as an entry level course 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

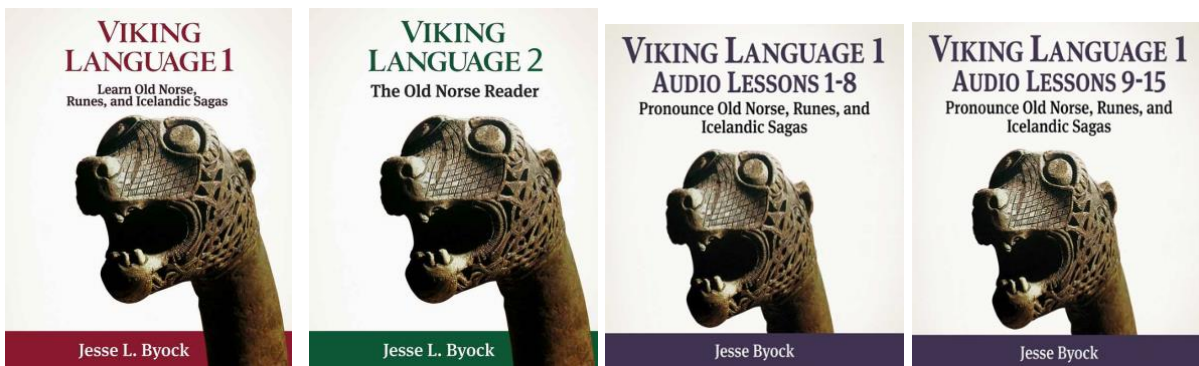
**Required Texts:**

- 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.
- *The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki*, Penguin Classics, 1998
- Viking Language 1: Audio Lessons 1-8 (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:**

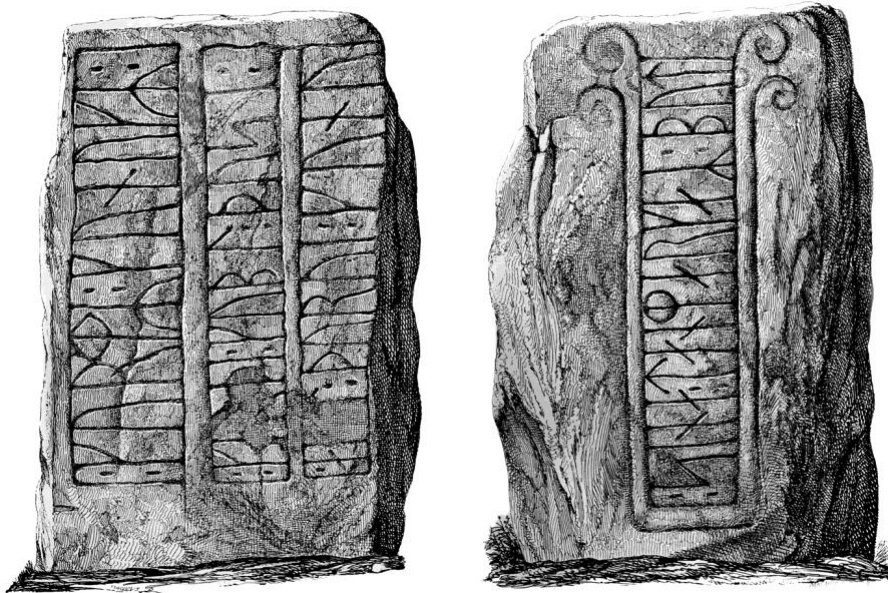
<p>MEETINGS 1 &amp; 2 (dates, week 1)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 1. Viking Language 2, Chapter 7 Settling The North Atlantic: Iceland</b> Readings: 7.1 - 7.5 <b>Meeting 2. Viking Language 2, Chapter 8 Greenland and Vinland</b> Readings: 8.1 - 8.5</p>
<p>MEETINGS 3 &amp; 4 (dates, week 2)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 3. Viking Language 1: Lesson 12: Feud in Iceland’s East Fjords</b> Readings: 12.1-12.8, Audio and Quizlet <b>Meeting 4. Finish Lesson 12</b> Readings and exercises: 12.9-12.19</p>
<p>MEETINGS 5 &amp; 6 (dates, week 3)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 5. Viking Language 2: Chapter 5: Thor and the Giant Utgarda-Loki</b> Readings: 5.1 <b>Meeting 6. Finish Chapter 5</b> Readings: 5.2-5.3</p>
<p>MEETINGS 7 &amp; 8 (dates, week 4)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 7. Viking Language 1: Lesson 13: Spike-Helgi Kills a Thief</b> Readings: 13.1-13.7, Audio and Quizlet <b>Meeting 8. Finish Lesson 13</b> Readings and exercises: 13.8-13.20 Homework: Study for Quiz 1.</p>
<p>MEETINGS 9 &amp; 10 (dates, week 5)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 9. Viking Language 2: Chapter 6: Otter’s Ransom: The Dwarves’ Gold and the Ring</b> Readings: 6.1 <b>Quiz 1: Lessons 11-13</b> <b>Meeting 10. Finish Chapter 6</b> Readings: 6.2</p>
<p>MEETINGS 11 &amp; 12 (dates, week 6)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 11. Viking Language 1: Lesson 14: Norse Mythology and the World Tree Yggdrasil</b> Readings: 14.1-14.6, Audio and Quizlet <b>Meeting 12. Finish Lesson 14</b> Readings and exercises: 14.7-14.16</p>

<p>MEETINGS 13 &amp; 14 (dates, week 7)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 13. Viking Language 2: Chapter 9: The Tale of Audun from the West Fjords</b> Readings: 9.1 (kapituli 1-2) <b>Meeting 14. Finish Chapter 9</b> Readings: 9.1 (kapituli 3-4)</p>
<p>MEETINGS 15 &amp; 16 (dates, week 8)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 15. Viking Language 1: Lesson 15: The saga of King Hrolf Kraki</b> Readings: 15.1-15.7, Audio and Quizlet <b>Meeting 16. Finish Lesson 15</b> Readings and exercises: 15.8-15.22</p>
<p>MEETINGS 17 &amp; 18 (dates, week 9)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 17. Viking Language 2: Chapter 10: Hrafinkel's Saga</b> Readings: 12.1 (kapituli 1-4) <b>Meeting 18. Finish Chapter 10</b> Readings: 12.1 (kapituli 4-10) Homework: Study for Quiz 2</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: 11.1-11.4 <b>Quiz 2: Lesson 13-15.</b> <b>Meeting 20. Finish Chapter 11</b> Readings: 11.5-11.10</p>
<p>MEETINGS 21 &amp; 22 (dates, week 11)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 21. Viking Language 2: Chapter 12: Eddic Poetry</b> Readings: 12.1-12.3 <b>Meeting 22. Viking Language 2: Chapter 13: Eddic Meters</b> Readings: 13.1-13.2</p>
<p>MEETING 23 &amp; 24 (dates, week 12)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 23. Viking Language 2: Chapter 14: The Lay of Thrym</b> Readings: 14.1-14.3 <b>Meeting 24. Finish Chapter 14</b> Readings: 14.3 Homework: Study for Quiz 3.</p>
<p>MEETING 25 &amp; 26 (dates, week 13)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 25. Viking Language 2: Chapter 15: Runes and Eddic Meter from Sweden</b> Readings: 15.1-15.3 <b>Quiz 3. Translation quiz.</b> <b>Meeting 26. The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki</b> Readings: Introduction and Chapters 1-4</p>
<p>MEETING 27 &amp; 28 (dates, week 14)</p>	<p><b>Meeting 27. Viking Language 2: Chapter 16: Skaldic Poetry</b> Readings: 16.1-16.6 <b>Meeting 28. The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki</b></p>

Readings: Chapters 5-19	
MEETING 29 & 30 (dates, week 15)	<p><b>Meeting 29. Viking Language 2: Chapter 17: The Karlevi Runestone</b> Readings:17.1</p> <p><b>Meeting 30. The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki</b> Readings: Chapters 20-34 Homework: Study for Final Quiz 4</p>
FINALS (dates, week 16)	<b>FINAL, QUIZ 4: Translation Quiz and either a final quiz or paper on <i>The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki</i></b>

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 I*).