Gods and Monsters: a Study of Norse Mythology

Fridays 1:30-3:30pm, January 16th – February 20th 2015
Carleton University, Leeds House room 124

Instructor:
Dr. Teva Vidal

COURSE OUTLINE

Lecture 1: General Introduction: Who Were the Vikings? Pagan Society. (Friday January 16th)
Placing the Vikings in History: who they were, where they went, how they lived. The Vikings as a Pagan Society: what this means. The First Viking Raids and subsequent interactions with Christianity.

Lecture 2: Sources for Norse Mythology, the Poetic Edda (Friday January 23rd)
What are our sources for knowing about Norse mythology? A question of chronology... The Poetic Edda: the Codex Regius, what it is, what it contains. Examples.

Lecture 3: Sources for Norse Mythology, Snorra Edda (Friday January 30th)

Lecture 4: Myths across Time and Space: How They Connect (Friday February 6th)
Other written sources: a brief selection and overview. Storytelling: Otter’s Ransom and the Sigurd cycle; Thor goes fishing.

Lecture 5: A Broader Exploration of Norse Cosmology (Friday February 13th)
The beginning and the end: the creation and destruction of the world. More elements of cosmology. How these relate in other sources, with a focus on sculpture.

Lecture 6: Mythology and Religion (Friday February 20th)
Is mythology the same as religion? Viking Age religious practice: how much do we really know? Sources from archaeology. Literature: native and foreign.
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Suggested Reading


