

General information about the subject and the teaching

The course provides insight into a selection of Old Norse juridical and poetical texts. The selection consists of texts from various genres in both normalized and unnormalized form. Students work on unnormalized texts and different kinds of reference editions.

After completing the course, students will:

- be able to better read and analyze Old Norse poetical texts and the challenging prose of juridical texts;
- have knowledge of characteristic stylistic and prosodic features of various poetical genres in Old Norse literature;
- be able to normalize a complex text in prose and a simple poetical text;
- be able to make use of different text editions and other tools (e.g. *Lexicon Poeticum*) for the analysis of Old Norse poetical texts.

The course is an advanced language course (fordypningsemne) in Old Norse language and literature within the BA field of study Norse and Celtic studies. It is expected that students have completed the course NFI1101 (Norse grammar and older language history) and thus fulfill compulsory prior knowledge to follow the course. Students are also encouraged to have taken the courses NFI1320 (Norrøn litteratur 1) and NFI2130 (Norrøn prosa) as propedeutical assets.

The teaching method is seminar teaching. The qualifying assignment consisted of a portfolio of translations, normalization exercises and textual analyses completed over the semester.

Examination form

The exam is a 3-day homework assignment. The answer should be 3-5 pages in total, but will not be penalized if the essay section of the exam is longer.

The examination consists of three sections:

1. Section One: Normalization and Translation. In this section, the students will be requested to fully normalize and translate two short juridical prose texts and one poetic stanza. They will also be required to provide a grammatical analysis of some of the words. (30% of the final grade).
2. Section Two: Analysis of Poetical Texts. The students will be required to indicate and illustrate some basic prosodical and formal features of Old Norse poetical texts, both eddic and skaldic (20% of the final grade)
3. Section Three: The students will be asked to produce a short contrastive analysis of two or more among the texts analysed during the course. (50% of the final grade)

Use of dictionaries, grammars, and secondary scholarship is permitted during the exam. Partial credit is given for answers with some errors.

Grading guidelines

The percentages assigned to specific sections are intended to help in weighing the quality of the work in part and as a whole.

For what concerns sections 1 and 2, which consist of measurable exercises of normalization and translation, as well as of a number of analytical questions, the following guidelines will be applied:

Section 1: Normalization and Translation

Text 1			
Normalization	25/25 (24 words + 1 for punctuation)		
Translation	10 points		
Grammar	5 points		
		score text 1	40/40
Text 2			
Normalization	40 points (39 words + 1 point for punctuation)		
Translation	15 points		
Grammar	5 points		
		score text 2	60/60
Text 3			
Normalization	15 points (14 lines + 1 point for punctuation)		
Translation	15		
Grammar	10 points		
		score text 3	40/40
		total section 1	140/140

Section 2: Analysis of the Formal Features of Poetical Texts

Question 1	10 points		
Question 2	20 points		
Question 3	15 points		
Question 4	15 points		
		total section 2	60/60

The sum of the score of sections 1 and 2 will be indicative of the level of knowledge of the language at all levels, of the linguistic principles underlying the process of normalization and of the distinctive formal features of Old Norse poetical texts.

Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 120 - 161	Excellent knowledge	A
Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 160 - 121	Very good knowledge	B
Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 120 - 81	Good knowledge	C
Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 80 - 41	Weak knowledge	D
Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 40 - 21	Limited knowledge	E
Score of Sections 1 and 2 comprised between: 20 - 0	Insufficient knowledge	F

For what concerns section 3, by contrast, the assessment of the short essay will be based on overall quality, not in terms of specific errors equating to the loss of a specific number of points.

The aspects which will be measured will include:

1. Originality, quality and clarity of the candidate's overall thesis and analytical approach.
2. Ability to develop an autonomous textual analysis.
 - a. Does the candidate show analytical understanding of the literary texts examined?
 - b. Can the candidate explain formal characteristics of the texts and relate them to the texts' content and genre?
3. Language and argumentation
 - a. Is the candidate's thesis expressed and structured in a logical and clear way?
 - b. Is the language clear and effective at an academic level?
4. Critical insight into the subject matter and references
 - a. Does the candidate explain, evaluate or discuss relevant research literature from the syllabus?
 - b. Does the candidate employ a uniform reference practice?

An 'A' essay will demonstrate an excellent ability to develop an original textual analysis, supported by a sound knowledge of the literary genres analyzed and control of the relevant research literature.

A 'B' essay will demonstrate a solid analytical ability and a good understanding of the texts, but the explanations may not be as well-supported as those in an 'A' exam.

A 'C' essay will demonstrate good knowledge of basic concepts, but the capacity to develop an autonomous argumentation and the independency of the analysis may be scarcer and less well-supported than in a 'B' essay.

A 'D' essay will demonstrate some knowledge of basic concepts, but the overall quality of the supported argumentation may appear weak, confused or contain significant errors.

An 'E' essay will demonstrate limited knowledge of basic concepts, may be very brief, and may contain significant errors.

An 'F' essay will demonstrate insufficient knowledge of the textual corpus, the argumentation may be left incomplete or unattempted.

Assessment

The final, overall grade of the exam will result from the combination of the grading resulting from Sections 1+2 and the one from Section 3, weighting 50% each, according to the guidelines of the grade weighting table:

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