

Subject card

Subject name and code	Old Norse Culture and Christianity in medieval Scandinavia and Iceland , PG_00208225						
Field of study	German Studies, Polish Studies, Romance and Iberian Studies, Applied Linguistics, Logopedics, Scandinavian Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		e-learning		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Grzegorz Bartusik				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The main objective of the course is to develop students' knowledge of the spiritual and material culture of medieval Northern Europe during both the pagan and Christian periods. The course also aims to familiarize students with the most important issues relating to the earliest literary works of the Nordic countries, with particular emphasis on Iceland and Norway. Furthermore, it seeks to enrich students' reading of medieval Icelandic literature through a contextual approach, highlighting the relationship between Old Norse literature and the political, social, and material realities of medieval Scandinavia and Iceland.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		

Subject contents	1. Scandinavia and Iceland in the Viking Age: the emergence of the Scandinavian kingdoms and Christianization. 2. Writing in medieval Scandinavia and Iceland: epigraphic culture and runic writing, book culture, and manuscripts. 3. Oral and written literature in medieval Scandinavia and Iceland: skaldic poetry and Icelandic sagas; the adaptation of skaldic poetry to the Christian religion. 4. Burials and funerary rites in the pagan and Christian periods: cremation burials and inhumation burials. 5. Norse mythology and medieval Scandinavian historiography. The theory of the Trojan origin of the Scandinavians in Icelandic and Norwegian historiography of the 12th–13th centuries (Snorri Sturluson, Theodoricus Monachus). 6. The Church's efforts to limit violence and social exclusion in Scandinavian society: judicial duels (<i>hólmganga</i>), blood feuds (<i>hefnd</i>, <i>einvígi</i>), outlawry, and social stigmatization (<i>níð</i>, <i>ergi</i>). The introduction of royal and ecclesiastical punishments (trials by ordeal). 7. The Scandinavian family and procreative ethics in the pagan and Christian periods. Infanticide in the pre-Christian period. The beginnings of social welfare in Christian Iceland. 8. The annual rhythm of life in medieval Scandinavia. The calendar and festivals of the Old Norse religion. The Christian calendar and feast days.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
		0.0%	0.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature		
	Supplementary literature		
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Sample topics - Grave goods deposited in burial sites during funeral rites in medieval Scandinavia - Characteristic features of Christian burial practices in medieval Scandinavia - Major religious festivals of the Old Norse religion (or of Norse paganism)		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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