



Fall 2018

GERM 514

Old Norse

Dr Paul Roberge

MW 1:25—2:50 pm

An introduction to the language of medieval Scandinavia, with a primary focus on developing a basic reading proficiency so that students can avail themselves of the prose literature in the original with a dictionary. Students will be expected to work closely through the grammar and the translation of texts from the original language into English. There will be plenty of grammatical analysis, dictionary work, vocabulary and paradigm memorization, and translation (but no speaking component, obviously, beyond learning the medieval pronunciation). We shall also examine aspects of the linguistic structure of Old Norse from a diachronic perspective.

Prerequisites:

This class is intended for students who have an interest in medieval studies, linguistics, and/or philology but have had no prior exposure to Old Norse.

Some previous study of a “philological” language (e.g., Old English, Middle High German) and/or a modern Scandinavian language would be helpful, though it is not required. Undergraduates should not sign up for this class unless they are firmly committed to learning Old Norse.