COURSE DETAIL

THE AFTERLIFE OF THE VIKING AGE
Country Denmark
Host Institution Aarhus University
Program(s) Aarhus University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Scandinavian Studies History
UCEAP Course Number 122
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE AFTERLIFE OF THE VIKING AGE
UCEAP Transcript Title AFTRLIFE VIKING AGE
UCEAP Quarter Units 8.00
UCEAP Semester Units 5.30

Course Description

This course deals with reception and heritage, and the ways in which ideas of the historical past are constructed and changed to fit into new contexts. The focal point of the lectures and readings is the Nordic world, particularly the so-called Viking Age. The Viking Age is a pertinent case because of the multiple ramifications of that period across time and space. The course presents different theories and perspectives of relevance for reception and heritage (e.g., theories about memory, media, adaptation and heritage tourism; antiquarianism, medievalism, etc.). The course engages with (in principle) all kinds of reception, such as literary, religious, political and cultural, in Scandinavia, Europe and the wider world, and with textual, visual and material representations from the Middle Ages to our contemporary times. Among the topics to be discussed are, firstly, the stereotypes and images of the Viking Age and the appropriation of Norse stories and legends that circulate in popular culture and contemporary media; and secondly, the relevance and function of the Viking Age as a central component in the cultural memory of groups of people. It asks questions such as: When, and where, did the idea of the Viking Age and the Vikings take form? Why is there such a widespread interest in the Viking Age, for instance, in North America? For whom, when and in which contexts has the Viking Age functioned as an identity forming factor? How are medieval Icelandic sagas and Old Norse myths adapted in, for example, literature, film and music? Is Viking heritage tourism a national or an international phenomenon? To what extent is the Viking Age an integral phenomenon that connects cultures, and to what extent does its uses create boundaries?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
131191U004

Host Institution Course Title
THE AFTERLIFE OF THE VIKING AGE

Host Institution Course Details

https://kursuskatalog.au.dk/en/course/127790/The-Afterlife-of-the-Viking-Age

Host Institution Campus
Aarhus

Host Institution Faculty
Arts

Host Institution Degree
Bachelor

Host Institution Department
School of Communication and Culture

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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