

Sensorveiledning, NFI2130
Norrøn prosa
Høst 2020

General information about the subject and the teaching

The course provides insight into a selection of Old Norse prose texts in the original language. The selection consists of texts from various genres in both normalized and unnormalized form. Students do some work with digitized manuscripts and paleography.

After completing the course, students will:

- be able to better read and analyze Norse prose texts
- have knowledge of characteristic stylistic features of various prose genres in Old Norse literature
- be able to normalize a simple Old Norse text
- have knowledge of different text editions and their characteristic principles in Norse philology

The course is part of a specialization in Norse philology 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.

The teaching method is seminar teaching. The qualifying assignment consists of a portfolio of translations completed over the semester.

Examination form

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

The examination consists of two sections:

Section One: translation of Old Norse texts, normalized and unnormalized, into modern Norwegian or English, and a short section on normalization.

Section Two: A short essay demonstrating familiarity with basic aspects of the Old Norse textual tradition.

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

Assessment

The exam answers are assessed on overall quality, not necessarily in terms of specific errors equating to the loss of a specific number of points. The percentages assigned to specific sections are intended to help in weighing the quality of the work in part and as a whole, but the final grade is based on the overall assessment of the student's understanding of Old Norse grammar, translation skills, and ability to construct an argument.

An 'A' exam will demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the language at the introductory level. The translations in Sections One will contain few or no errors. The essay in Section Two will demonstrate sound knowledge of important concepts introduced during the course, supported with relevant examples.

A 'B' exam will demonstrate a very good knowledge of the language at the introductory level, but may have a higher number of minor translations errors than an 'A' exam. The essay in Section Two will demonstrate a solid understanding of important concepts, but the explanations may not be as sophisticated or well-supported as those in an 'A' exam.

A 'C' exam will demonstrate a good knowledge of the language at the introductory level. The answers to the questions in Section One may contain numerous minor errors in translation, but will demonstrate a good ability to translate Old Norse. The essay in Section Two will demonstrate good knowledge of basic concepts, but may be brief, contain minor errors, and be less sophisticated or well-supported than those in a 'B' exam.

A 'D' exam will demonstrate some knowledge of the language at the introductory level. There may be significant translation errors in Section One. The essay in Section Two will demonstrate some knowledge of basic concepts, but may be too short and contain significant errors.

An 'E' exam will demonstrate uneven or limited knowledge of the language at the introductory level. The essay in Section Two will demonstrate limited knowledge of basic concepts, may be very brief, and may contain significant errors.

An 'F' exam will demonstrate insufficient knowledge of the language at the introductory level. Some sections may be left incomplete or unattempted.

Aspects to be measured at the exam:

1. Ability to translate Old Norse prose texts into good and understandable Norwegian
 - a. Does the candidate show analytical understanding of the Norse language?
 - b. Can the candidate transfer grammatical and syntactic structures within Norse prose texts to modern Norwegian?
2. Understanding of text representation
 - a. Can the candidate explain characteristics within different text representations (normalized /unnormalized)?
3. Critical insight into the subject matter and references
 - a. Does the candidate explain, evaluate or discuss relevant research literature from the syllabus?
4. Language style
 - a. Is the language clear and at an academic level?
5. Formal aspects
 - a. Is the answer structured in logical sections?
 - b. Uniform reference practice?