

Historical-comparative Scandinavian Linguistics (A006701)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) Swedish Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Widoff, Andreas LW06 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

| | crdts | offering |
|---|-------|----------|
| Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |
| Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |

Teaching languages

Swedish

Keywords

Runology, Edda and saga's, Old Norse, Old Nordic texts, Old Scandinavian texts, Scandinavian Language History

Position of the course

Introduction to Old Norse, with a comparative Old Nordic perspective. Introduction to the history of the Scandinavian languages.

Contents

Introduction to the history of the Scandinavian languages, including runology and Old Norse. The course thus has both a synchronic and a diachronic focus. Texts from different Old Nordic languages will be read, analyzed and translated, in parallel with studying Old Norse grammar. Most of the reading material will be Old Icelandic, such as sagas, Eddic texts and others, but also Old Norwegian, Old Swedish and Old Danish texts will be read.

Initial competences

The student is a BA in linguistics and literature and has a knowledge of a Scandinavian language corresponding to the target competences of either Swedish Linguistics III, Norwegian, Danish or Icelandic

Final competences

- 1 After the course the students should be able to read any Old Norse and Old Nordic text, with the aid of critical sources and a dictionary, analyze it linguistically and recognize from which part of the Old Nordic linguistic area it originates.
- 2 Through practical exercises, the students should become familiar with the electronic resources available for the Old Scandinavian languages, which in turn should make them prepared for corpus research within Old Norse, in particular, and Old Scandinavian, in general.
- 3 Through intellectual work with research articles within Old Norse philology and

Nordic language history, the students should be able to problematize the linguistic development of the Nordic languages.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Study material

None

References

- Fritzner, J. 1883–96. *Ordbog over det gamle norske sprog*. Kristiania (online: <https://www.edd.uio.no/perl/search/search.cgi?appid=86&tabid=1275>)
- Cleasby, R. & G. Vigfússon, 1957. *An Icelandic-English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. Oxford.
- Zoëga, Geir. 1910. *A Concise Dictionary of Icelandic*. Oxford [republ. Toronto, 2004]
- *Svenska Akademiens ordbok*. Online: <http://www.saob.se>.
- Söderwall, K.F. 1884–1918. *Ordbok öfver svenska medeltidsspråket I-III*. Lund. (online: <http://spraakbanken.gu.se/fsvldb>)
- *Gammeldansk ordbog*. Online: <http://gammeldanskordbog.dk/>
- Wessén, Elias. 1992a. *Svensk språkhistoria 1: Ljudlära och ordböjningslära*. Stockholm: Akademityck.
- Wessén, Elias. 1992b. *Svensk språkhistoria 3: Grundlinjer till en historisk syntax*. Stockholm: Akademityck.

Course content-related study coaching

Following classes and by appointment, students can contact their teachers.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Written assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- 1) Written exam: translation, morphological and syntactic analysis of an older text
- 2) Oral presentation summarizing the content of a research article within Old Norse philology or Scandinavian language history
- 3) Research assignment

Calculation of the examination mark

- 1) Written exam: 30%
- 2) Practical exercises: 30%
- 3) Research Assignment: 40%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy