I. Instructor Information:
Professor: Dr. Charles Lipp
Class Times: MW 12:30-1:45pm
Class Rooms: Nursing 122
Office: TLC 3217

E-Mail: clipp@westga.edu
Office Phone: 678-839-6039
Office Hours: MW 2-3pm; Tues. 10-12, 2-5pm, or by appointment

II. Course Description:
Even today, more than a thousand years after they caused terror in large parts of the medieval world, the history of the Vikings, the folks from northern Europe, continues to fascinate. In this class, we will move beyond legendary images of those northern Europeans to study the realities of the Vikings in the context of the early medieval world. We will spend significant time looking at the Vikings in Scandinavia and then turn and look at Viking encounters with other peoples, from Europe to the Middle East and beyond.

III. Course Learning Objectives:
Students who complete successfully all course assignments will demonstrate the following:
- A deeper understanding of crucial aspects of the Viking Age, including background factors, major issues, and central figures.
- An understanding of how multi-variable process have functioned in the past.
- Increased skills at reading critically and analyzing primary sources.
- Increased abilities at crafting arguments, in both written and oral form.

These outcomes help reinforce the following History Department Program Learning Outcomes:
- Demonstrate content knowledge of history.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources for their historical content and interpretations.
- Demonstrate writing skills that reflect persuasive historical arguments based on evidence and proper citation.

The History Department believes that these learning outcomes will contribute to a student’s ability to think historically, which includes:
- Understanding the people of the past.
- Understanding the perspective of historical actors and to view those historical actors from a critical, scholarly perspective.
- Recognizing that people, events, ideas, and cultures have influenced later people, events, ideas, and cultures.
- Recognizing that history involves both change and continuity over time; and,
- Explaining connections between particular people, events, ideas, or texts and their historical contexts.
IV. Required Books (in assigned reading order):

   Read the Following Pages:
   • 1-133.

   Read the Following Pages:
   • 1-135.

   Read the Following Pages:
   • 1-174.

   Read the Following Pages:
   • 45-55 (Ibn Fadlān)
   • 105-109 (Ibn Hayyān on Viking Attack on Seville)
   • 110 (Zuhrī on Viking ships)
   • 111-112 (Ibn Khurradādhbih – routes of the Rus)
   • 126-127 (Ibn Rusta on the Rus)
   • 143 (Mas’udī on the Rus)
   • 144-146 (Mas’udī on Viking raid)
   • 147-152 (Miskawayh on the Rus raid on Bardha’a)
   • 175 (Ibn Hawqal on the fur trade and Rus attack)
   • 178 (Ibn Hawqal on the Rus destruction of Ital)
   • 182-183 (Marwazī on the Rus)

   Read the Following Pages:
   • 3-50.

V. Course Grading Information and Class Policies:

A. University Policies:
Information regarding university-wide policies can be found here.

B. Grade Breakdown:
Your semester grade will be factored as follows:

- Examinations (non-cumulative) 50% (or 25% each)
- Analytical Paper (choose 1 from between 2 options) 20%
- Analytical Breakdowns (for each book) 10% (or 2% each)
- Participation 20%
*Note on Factoring Grades:
- I will not factor your grade until the end of term when all assignments are completed. If you are interested in your current standing in the class, please keep assignments and use the percentages above.

C. General Points Regarding Assignments:
- Detailed information regarding assignments will be provided separately, both in a specific assignment description document posted on Course Den and in class.
- All written assignments are on the date indicated in the Course Outline below. Only a serious and unavoidable cause, such as a documented medical condition or family emergency, will be accepted as an excuse for failing to submitting an assignment on time. Official documentation must be provided for all causes.
- Written assignments must be submitted electronically, via the Course Den Dropbox (aka Assignment Submissions Folders) before 12pm on the days marked in Course Den and on the Course Outline below.
- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-pt Times New Roman font, with regular margins (1.25 left and right, 1.0 top and bottom). You must write the full page-length of the assignment—that means, any space devoted to your name, the date, the class, etc. at the top of the first page does not count towards fulfilling the page length.
- As for readings, all assigned works must be read before in-class discussions, as marked on the Course Outline below.

D. Basic Grading Criteria:
- Assignment and final grades reflect your mastery of assigned materials, particularly lectures and readings.
- In general, “A” grades reflect totally excellent work—work that is well written, well organized, and well argued; work that avoids summarizing and instead integrates lecture and reading material into a deep analysis. “A” work contains no factual errors, excellent writing with no mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays complete mastery of the main issues of our class.
- “B” grades indicate good work—work that mixes analysis with summary. “B” work contains few factual errors, good writing with few mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a good command of the main issues of our class.
- “C” grades indicate average work that offers only summary and lacks analysis and organization. “C” work contains some factual errors, average writing with some mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays an average command of the main issues of our class.
- Something to think about: a “C” reflects summarizing of the material (the questions of who, what, and when)—“B” and “A” indicate you have gone beyond mere summary to address the crucial questions of why and how.
• “D” grades reflect poor work that fails to demonstrate a mastery of assigned material. “D” work contains many factual errors, poor writing with many mistakes in spelling, grammar, or organization, and displays a less-than-average mastery of the main issues of our class.

• “F” grades reflect work that fails to achieve any of the above criteria and display no mastery of assigned materials whatsoever.

E. Numerical Equivalents of Letter Grades

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B+</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>85</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>B/C+</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>C/D+</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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*Note:

• Failure to complete or turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero, not F.

F. Plagiarism

• All assignments in this course are designed to test your ability to use and analyze class materials, including readings and lectures. Outside materials, including the internet, are not necessary to answer any of the assigned questions. To be more precise, only your discussion of required class material will count towards your grade—information from outside WILL NOT BE FACTORED IN YOUR GRADE.

• However, ANY ACT of plagiarism (the use of someone else’s words or ideas without citation) from ANY SOURCE (class materials and/or outside, including from the internet) will be dealt with severely, so remember to always cite all words and ideas that are not your own. Please recall that when you entered UWG, you consented to uphold our Honor Code, in which all students “pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.” Moreover, you agreed to the following: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” You can review the Honor Code here.

• For any instance of plagiarism discovered, I will report the incident to relevant university authorities and impose the same penalty: an absolute 0 points for the assignment. An absolute zero for the assignment will have an adverse impact on the final grade; at the worst, it may result in failure for the course. Based on the severity of the incident, additional measures may be taken. Plagiarism is simple to avoid: if in doubt, cite! If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and the policies stated above, please come see me.

G. Participation and the Course Attendance/Participation Policy

• Your active participation is absolutely critical for the success of our class. Discussions are an important component of this course and I expect you to be ready to ask and answer questions.

• Just showing up for class and saying nothing is not enough—that will earn a C-level grade.

• Beyond speaking during discussions, participation means being actively engaged in the process of learning at all times. This includes being alert and taking notes during lectures and taking advantage of office hours.
I expect you to be respectful of yourself, your colleagues, and me at all times. Failure to conduct yourself professionally (as in not paying attention during discussions, leaving, coming late, texting, and the like) will have a negative impact on your participation grade.

Twenty percent of your final grade rests on your participation—that is the difference between a 95 and a 75.

H. Etiquette and Obligations

As mentioned above, inside the classroom, I expect you to behave with civility and courtesy towards your colleagues and towards me. By choosing to enter UWG, you have decided to engage in a professional endeavor, and must comport yourself accordingly. Not only does this mean always being respectful of your colleagues even when you disagree with their viewpoints, but also means continually contributing to a productive learning environment for all.

These contributions include making sure your cell phone and other electronic devices are turned off and not used or consulted during class. This ban includes laptops. Recording of lectures is similarly not permitted. If you have a medical reason to use either a laptop or recorder, please come see during the first week of class with official paperwork from UWG.

It should go without saying that when you come to class, you are to remain awake, alert, and mentally engaged for the entire class – that is 75 full minutes. If you chose to come to class, you must stay awake and remain. Do not sleep or leave early. As part of my job, I must inform relevant university authorities anyone who displays such behaviors and has difficulty remaining engaged in the learning process.

Unprofessional behavior and any disruption of the learning environment cannot and will not be tolerated. Continual behavioral issues constitute grounds for being dropped from the course.

Enrolling in this course means that you and I have a contractual obligation to one another: I am obligated to teach to the best of my ability; you are obligated to know the material provided in lectures, to complete the readings and writing assignments in a timely manner, and to participate actively in the process of learning.

I. Communications

All electronic communication must use your UWG e-mail account (G-Mail), not your Course Den e-mail. Please keep in mind that I will check my e-mail only during normal business hours Monday through Friday. In other words, do not expect instantaneous responses. In addition, in order to respect your privacy, I will not discuss grades over e-mail.

J. Accessibility Services

One of the most important resources across the entire university is the Office of Accessibility Services, which works to help ensure equal opportunities for all students. For those who have need of the Office’s services, please make sure your information packet is eailed to me from your official university address during the first week of the semester.

K. Final Note

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus during the semester if circumstances warrant. You will be informed at all times of any changes. If changes are substantial, I will issue a revised syllabus.
VI. Course Outline:

Part 1: Introductions

Week One:
Wednesday, August 14, 2019:
• Class Introduction

Week Two:
Monday, August 19, 2019:
• Introducing the Viking World: Places, Peoples, Problems

Part 2: Legends, Facts, and Sources

Wednesday, August 21, 2019:
• Why Vikings? The Legend
• Watch (in class): Vikings

Week Three:
Monday, August 26, 2019:
• Sources of Legends – The Icelandic Sagas

Wednesday, August 28, 2019:
• In-Class Discussion (Volsungs/Ragnar Lothbrok) – read pages listed above.
• Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Breakdown 1 (Volsungs/Ragnar Lothbrok)

Week Four:
Monday, September 02, 2019:
• No Class: Labor Day

Wednesday, September 04, 2019:
• Moving Towards Realities – Archaeology of the Viking World
• Watch (in class): Time Team
• In-Class Discussion (Richards, Very Short Intro) – read pages listed above.
• Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Breakdown 2 (Richards, Very Short Intro)

Week Five:
Monday, September 09, 2019:
• Interpreting Sources – guest lecture: Dr. Nadya Williams

Part 3: Viking Scandinavia

Wednesday, September 11, 2019:
• Scandinavia – Geography and the Human Story
**Week Six:**
Monday, September 16, 2019:
- Life in Viking Scandinavia (Society, Economics, Politics), 1

Wednesday, September 18, 2019:
- Life in Viking Scandinavia (Society, Economics, Politics), 2

**Week Seven:**
Monday, September 23, 2019:
- Beliefs Old and New

Wednesday, September 25, 2019:
- Art and Literature of the Viking World

**Week Eight:**
Monday, September 30, 2019:
- *In-Class Discussion* (*Poetic Edda*) – read pages listed above.
- *Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Breakdown 3 (Poetic Edda)*

**Part 4: The Viking World**

Wednesday, October 02, 2019:
- The Issues of Viking Expansion

**Week Nine:**
Monday, October 07, 2019:
- Towards the East, 1
- *Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Exam 1 (thru discussion of Poetic Edda)*

Wednesday, October 09, 2019:
- Towards the East 2

**Week Ten:**
Monday, October 14, 2019:
- *In-Class Discussion* (Ibn Fadlan) – read pages listed above.
- *Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Breakdown 4 (Ibn Fadlan)*

Wednesday, October 16, 2019:
- Vikings and Franks, 1

**Week Eleven:**
Monday, October 21, 2019:
- Vikings and Franks, 2
- *Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Paper – Option 1*

Wednesday, October 23, 2019:
- Vikings in Britain and Ireland, 1
Week Twelve:
Monday, October 28, 2019:
• Vikings in Britain and Ireland, 2

Wednesday, October 30, 2019:
• Vikings in Britain and Ireland, 3

Week Thirteen:
Monday, November 04, 2019:
• The North Atlantic and Iceland, 1

Wednesday, November 06, 2019:
• The North Atlantic and Iceland, 2

Week Fourteen:
Monday, November 11, 2019:
• The North Atlantic and Iceland, 3

Wednesday, November 13, 2019:
• To Greenland and North America, 1

Week Fifteen:
Monday, November 18, 2019:
• To Greenland and North America, 2

Wednesday, November 20, 2019:
• In-Class Discussion (Vinland Sagas) – read pages listed above.
• Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Analytical Breakdown 5 (Vinland Sagas)

Week Sixteen:
Monday, November 25, 2019:
• No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 27, 2019:
• No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Week Seventeen:
Monday, December 02, 2019:
• The End of the Viking World

Wednesday, December 04, 2019:
• The Viking Legacy
• Due on Course Den (by 12 pm): Analytical Paper – Option 2

Exam Week:
Monday, December 09, 2019:
• Due on Course Den (by 12pm): Exam 2
VII. Full URLs for Hyperlinks Above:

UWG Common Language for Course Syllabi:
https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php

UWG Undergraduate Honor Code:
http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm

UWG Writing Center:
http://www.westga.edu/~writing

UWG Center for Academic Success:
http://www.westga.edu/cas/

UWG Accessibility Services
https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php