



## KIIS DENMARK, Summer 2018

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### HIST 490 Viking Age to Modern State

**Instructor:** Dr. Carolyn Dupont

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#### **Course Description, Objectives, and Content:**

This course will explore the broad sweep of Danish history. We will explore daily life in Viking society, Viking religion and culture, and, of course, the Viking exploits abroad. We will examine in detail the transformation of Denmark from a pagan, Viking society to a modern Christian state. Turning our lens on more recent times, we examine Danish society and Denmark's role in global affairs at the height of its power in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the final sessions, we will look at the occupation of Denmark by the Germans during World War II, as well as Denmark's astounding rescue of its Jewish population.

Students should be very aware that the course will *not* proceed chronologically. We will move back and forth among the various historical eras, because we want to take advantage of historical sites that cannot necessarily be visited in chronological order.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe and explain the major facets of Viking society
- 2) Describe and explain the reason for the Vikings' ultimate embrace of Christianity
- 3) Identify and describe key turning points and trends in Danish history
- 4) Identify and describe how the major events and trends in modern European history have unfolded in Denmark
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of how perspective and vantage point shape the telling of history
- 6) Critically evaluate the role played by perspective and vantage point at sites where Denmark's history is told

#### **Readings (all readings will be provided by the instructor and placed in a Dropbox folder)**

Excerpts from Knud J.V. Jespersen, *A History of Denmark*

Excerpts from *The Edge of the World*

Excerpt from *On Tycho's Island*

Neil S. Price, "Bodylore and the Archaeology of Embedded Religion: Dramatic License in the Funerals of the Vikings"

#### **Grading:**

**Question Sets**

**100 points**

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|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>On-site assignments</b> | <b>100 points</b> |
| <b>Final Exam</b>          | <b>100 points</b> |

**Question Sets (four each @ 25 points each).** I have drafted four sets of questions over the assigned readings. The questions are meant to help you engage the reading and to emphasize key points in it. They are available in the class Dropbox folder. Please complete the readings and question sets before departure for Denmark. Email them to me before June 4.

**On-site assignments (25 points each).** Four of our excursions will include assignments that you must complete. These will involve activities and observations that you will conduct on site, and will have a written component. Each on-site assignment will have a separate handout.

## Course Schedule

### Unit 1: Two Revolutions: 1500-1660

**June 7-17**

**Topics:** Course introduction; structure of Danish society; the Reformation in Denmark; development of the monarchy; state finance and war

**Readings:** Jespersen, Introduction (pp.1-11; 38-63)

**Film:** *En Konelig Affaere*

**Site visits:** Danish national museum  
Fredericksborg, Kronborg

### Unit II: The Vikings, Tycho Brahe

**June 12-21**

**Topics:** Viking society; Tycho Brahe's life and work; Tycho Brahe's social world

**Readings:** Excerpt from *The Edge of the World; On Tycho's Island*

**Site visits:** Vikingships Museum, Roskilde Cathedral  
Hven  
Lejre (optional)

Independent sites visits in Copenhagen: Round Tower, Rosenborg, Christiansborg

### Unit III: Denmark and the World, the Nineteenth Century

**June 22-30**

**Topics:** More Vikings, Denmark in World War II

**Readings:** Neil S. Price, "Bodylore and the Archaeology of Embedded Religion: Dramatic License in the Funerals of the Vikings"

**Site visits:** Jelling, Mosegard Museum, Museum of the Occupation