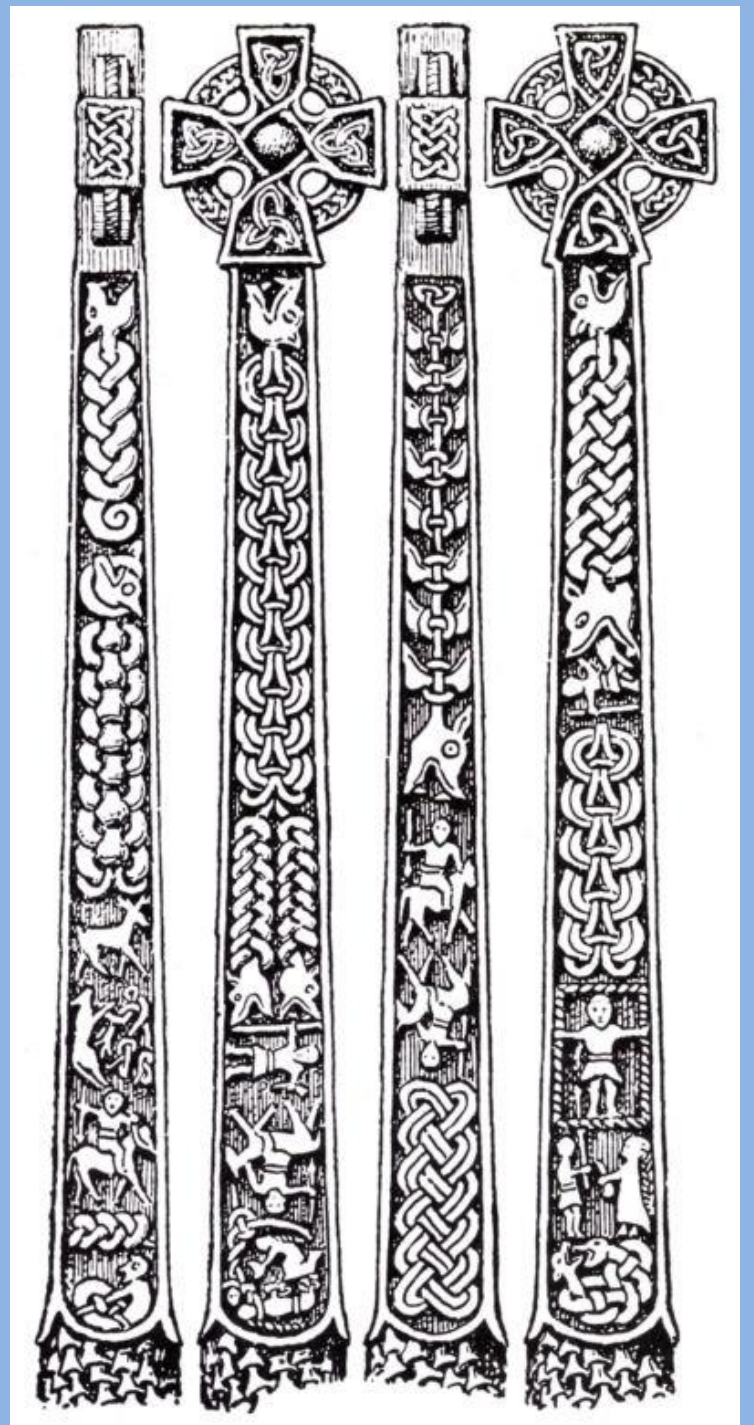


Ice and Fire: Myths and Heroes of the North

Q32205 – Autumn Semester

The gods, heroes and events of Norse mythology are well-known: Odin the one-eyed god of poetry and war, Thor who protects both gods and humans by crushing giants with his hammer, Freya the goddess of beauty who drives a chariot pulled by cats, the final destruction of the world in the ice and fire of Ragnarök; and human heroes like Sigurd the Serpent-Slayer. In this module you will study and analyse the key texts of Old Norse myth and legend from which these familiar stories come, along with pictorial versions in wood and stone from throughout the Viking world. The module will explore the development of Norse myth and legend from the Viking Age, through medieval Christian Iceland, and into more recent times.



We will meet for three hours a week: two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour seminar.

Core texts for the seminars are the two Eddas, Snorri Sturluson's *Prose Edda* and the *Poetic Edda*. You can also engage with the visual and material culture of the Viking Age and Norse mythology in lectures and in your project.

Assessment is by a 3000-word independent project on a relevant topic of your own devising (100%), and there is an opportunity to complete a formative piece of work (500 words) during the semester.



Module convenor: Dr Christina Lee

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