English 401: Viking Studies
The Medieval North Atlantic

The Evolution of Narrative Technique
in The Vinland Sagas

Although both sagas deal with many of the same events, *Graenlendinga Saga* is probably a century older than *Eiriks Saga*, and the latter displays a much more developed narrative technique than the former. Examples of this difference in levels of sophistication might be found in:

- Uses of sources and sense of historicity
- Breadth of historical and narrative perspective
- Relationship between cause and effect
- Rationalization of geography
- Descriptions of the inhabitants of Vinland

Choosing any three of the above five elements, find for each element two or three parallel passages from each text which illustrate the development of saga-writing technique. You need not deal with passages or events which are identical, but do find a number of passages in each text which illustrate how (in a number of ways) the narrative voice of *Eiriks Saga* is more advanced than that of *Graenlendinga Saga*.