



English 401: Viking Studies The Medieval North Atlantic



Orkneyinga Saga Assignment

Read *Orkneyinga Saga* with an eye for finding references to your specific site, to related sites and categories of sites, and to your research topic. For class next week write a one page (300-350 word) paper contextualizing your site and topic within the world and culture described in *Orkneyinga Saga*. Discuss how the settings and themes of the saga bear some sort of relationship(s) to your site and topic, and cite at least five (5) specific, detailed, and relevant passages from the text of the saga in support of your points. Obviously a site in the Northern Isles may be referenced directly in *Orkneyinga Saga*, while a site from, for example, the Isle of Man, may not be. Whether or not your site is specifically mentioned by name in the text, however, issues of travel, raiding, farming, domestic life, law, blood-feud and the like all are themes explored in the saga. Use your paper to discuss how the saga helps to illuminate your site and topic, and vice versa. This one-page summary of these relationships should offer a useful spring-board into your Site Report as well as into your Final Research Project; indeed, this work could well be helpful in the composition of your IF project, as well. Be prepared to discuss this paper, these connections, and your ideas at length (for at least 5-10 minutes) in class next week. Bring a paper copy of the essay to class, and submit an electronic version as an email attachment by 6:30 PM next Wednesday.