Literature of the Vikings

EH 329, Fall 2017
MWF 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
Dr. Jill Clements

The corpus of texts from medieval Scandinavia tells the stories of the Norse gods, legendary heroes, and colorful families of the Viking Age. Focusing particularly on sagas, this course introduces Old Norse-Icelandic literature in translation and fosters skills in close reading and interpretation. We will also discuss the historical milieu in which these texts were composed and transmitted, and how the literature represents various aspects of medieval culture, including such topics as travel abroad and raiding, settlement, love and marriage, feasting, law, warrior ethics, blood feud, cosmology, and religious rituals.

Wooden animal-head post, Oseberg ship burial (Oslo, Norway)