

Title: Vikings and Metal: A History of Vikings and Their Influences in Metal Music

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Introduction: When you look around at metal bands, a typical description is a group of men with long black or blonde hair in black shirts with Norse-inspired jewelry and instruments. Have you ever stopped and thought why this is? We read literature about them and see films with their well-known horned hats. In the last few years, television shows such as *Metocalypse* and *Vikings* have become quite popular in the media. Yet, it is not often explained of their origins and how they arrived into our media.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to look into the history of Vikings, where they came from, and how they settled. Furthermore, the research extends to how they were implemented as icons in our culture and how they became inspirations for metal bands. I not only want to utilize the Viking history, but I also want to explore the mythology of Norse deities.

Methods: I am researching through articles, journals, and books. With what I have currently seen, there is a good amount of information on Viking history, some of their representation in film and literature, and a little in their influence in metal bands. My research will extend over to the metal community. When my IRB submission is approved, I will interact with the community and ask them a series of questions. I want to survey how much they connect metal music to the Viking culture. Additionally, I want to record what they think is the history and compare it to the research.

Results: The research presented here pertains to my honors thesis. The ending result of the thesis will be a graphic novel as well as a paper of around five pages in length in which the collected history of Vikings and Norse mythology, their depiction in media, and their influences in metal music are explained.

Discussion/Conclusion: This is an ongoing project for an honors thesis of the same name that will be complete in Fall 2014.