During the first millennium AD, the shores of the North Sea saw intense interactions of the populations living there. This course will focus on the history and archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England, within the broader contexts of the North Sea littoral in the first millennium AD. It will examine the history of the archaeology of this period and the ways in which contemporary ideologies have affected interpretation of the evidence. Lectures will explore the relationship between written and material sources for this period and the implications of recent theoretical debates within archaeology, for example those relating to identity, including ethnicity, gender, social structure and religious belief.

Students will be expected to acquire knowledge of aspects of the archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon England, northern Germany and southern Scandinavia, including the study of artefacts, burials, settlements in their landscape context, towns and the church. They should be able to relate this evidence to key issues: the nature, course and impact of migration; the emergence of kingdoms; the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. They should become familiar with the ways in which these topics are informed by, and contribute to, the wider context of archaeological and historical debate. By the end of the course, students should be able to deploy their knowledge of the evidence in discussion of issues including the debate surrounding migrations, the impact of increasing stratification and conversion to Christianity.

Each student will select a small topic on which to base a practical project, involving direct examination of some aspect of material evidence for the period.

Structure
Lectures: One hour each week (Michaelmas, Lent, Easter), Tuesday, 11-12 am
Practicals: 5 x two hour-sessions (Michaelmas, Lent), Wednesday 2-4 pm
Supervisions: 3-4 per term

Mode of examination
Final written paper: 80% of the final mark
Practical project: 20% of the final mark