

Course Descriptions for Scandinavian Studies Courses

Spring 2017

See also our courses listed under Literature in Translation.

Scand 102 Second Semester Norwegian, 4 credits

David Natvig 11:00 to 11:50 MTWRF danatvig@wisc.edu

Peggy Hager 1:20 to 2:10 MTWRF pehager@wisc.edu

Prerequisites: 101 Norwegian or equivalent, open to undergraduates

Language of Instruction: Norwegian

This course continues to build basic skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Norwegian. We offer a thematic, communicative approach to language teaching that strives to put language in the context of culture. Classroom time focuses on communication and listening, as well as introducing basic grammatical concepts. Homework centers on reinforcing vocabulary, reading, grammar exercises and writing. Thematic units covered in Norwegian 102 include clothing, family and relationships, appearance and personality, celebrations, hometowns and housing, work and economy. We end the semester with a student-produced group video project.

The final grade is determined as follows: 15% attendance and participations; 10% homework; 10% essays; 10% in-class quizzes, 40% exams, 5% oral exam, 10% written final

Textbook: *Sett i gang I* (chapters 13-15) *Sett i gang II* (chapters 16-23) (authors: Kari Lie Dorer and Nancy Aarsvold)

Audio and on-line exercises free and on-line

Scand 112 Second Semester Swedish, 4 credits

8:50 AM-9:40 AMMTWRF

Prerequisite: Scand St 111

Continuation of Scand 111 as an introduction to the Swedish language.

Scand 122, 2nd Semester Danish, 3-4 credits

Nete Schmidt, MTWRF 11-11:50

Prerequisites: Scand 121 and / or students who have a proficient knowledge of Danish to join the class (See instructor for placement test)

Language of instruction: Danish

The purpose of this class is to continue building on the Danish skills gained in 121. Our motto will be: The more Danish, the better! We will be talking, listening, reading and writing. We will include more grammar and grammatical exercises, and we will expand your vocabulary, working towards a higher degree of proficiency in Danish. Apart from continuing with the textbooks, we will also be reading more authentic texts that cover aspects of Danish culture and the Danes, so we can continue analyzing and comparing with that of the US. We will focus on contemporary reading and include films and audios, representing Danish popular culture. We will include new technology to enhance our authentic language and culture acquisition.

For Grading, please see:

<http://www.scandinavian.wisc.edu/schmidt/danish/grading122.htm>

Email address of instructor for any questions: aschmidt2@wisc.edu

Scand 202 Fourth Semester Norwegian, 4 credits

Peggy Hager 2:25 to 3:15 MTWR pehager@wisc.edu

Prerequisites: 102 Norwegian or equivalent, open to undergraduates

Language of Instruction: Norwegian

Norwegian 202 is an intermediate fourth semester language course that requires the completion of Norwegian 201 or equivalent. The course builds on the vocabulary and topics introduced in third semester Norwegian and explores various aspects of Norwegian culture through texts, video, internet and classroom discussion. Classroom topics include Vikings, Nordic mythology, Norwegian language and dialects, and Norway as a modern welfare state. Students read and discuss *Naiv. Super* by contemporary Norwegian writer Erlend Loe. An important component of fourth semester Norwegian is individual oral presentations in Norwegian on a topic of interest related to Norway.

The final grade is determined as follows: 10% attendance and participations; 15%homework; 10% essays; 10% oral presentations, 40% exams, 5% oral exam, 10% final paper.

Textbook: *Naiv. Super* by Erlend Loe (available at amazon.com Nelsbok edition)

Other materials free and on-line

Scand 212 Second Year Swedish, 4 credits

1:20 PM-2:10 PM MTWR

Prerequisites: Cons inst or Scand St 211

Continuation of Scand 211 Second Semester Swedish.

Scand 222, 2nd year Danish, 3-4 credits

Nete Schmidt, MTWR 9:55-10:45

Prerequisites: Scand 221 and / or students who have a proficient knowledge of Danish to join the class (See instructor for placement test)

Language of instruction: Danish

The purpose of this class is to continue building on the Danish skills gained in 121, 122, and 221. Our motto will be: The more Danish, the better! We will be **talking, listening, reading and writing**. We will include more grammar and grammatical exercises, and we will expand your vocabulary, working towards a higher degree of proficiency in Danish. Apart from continuing with the textbooks, we will also be reading more authentic texts that cover aspects of Danish culture and the Danes, so we can continue analyzing and comparing with that of the US. We will focus on contemporary reading and include films and audios, representing Danish popular culture. We will include new technology to enhance our authentic language and culture acquisition. For Grading, please see:

<http://www.scandinavian.wisc.edu/schmidt/danish/grading222.htm>

Email address of instructor for any questions: aschmidt2@wisc.edu

Scand 374/Lit Trans 274: Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: the 20th Century, 3-4 credits

Susan Brantly, MW, 12:05-12:55

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for Lit Trans 274. Students taking the class as Scan 374 must have some knowledge of a Nordic language. Those taking the class for 4 credits should be signed up for a Comm-B section. May be taken for honors credit. Counts toward the literature breadth requirement. Scan 374 counts towards the Scandinavian Certificate or Major.

Language of instruction: English

This course provides information about the major literary movements in 20th-Century Scandinavian literature: The Modern Breakthrough, Modernism, Social Realism, and Postmodernism. Students will become familiar with some of the most important writers of this era: Strindberg, Hamsun, Lagerkvist, Hansen, Dinesen, Jersild, Hoeg and others. Students will

learn something about history, another culture, and improve their writing and critical thinking skills.

The final grade is determined as follows: 3 credits: The grade is determined by three essay exams taken every fifth week. (100%) 4 credits: Three essay exams (50%) and Comm-B assignments (50%)

Some texts will be available through the course web site in Learn@UW. The books to be purchased include:

Knut Hamsun, *Hunger*

Pär Lagerkvist, *The Dwarf*

Peter Hoeg, *Smilla's Sense of Snow*

Isak Dinesen, *Seven Gothic Tales*

P.C. Jersild, *A Living Soul*

Hjalmar Söderberg, *Dr. Glas*

Email address of instructor for any questions: sbrantly@wisc.edu

401 Contemporary Scandinavian Languages, 3 credits

Scott Mellor, Agnete Schmidt, Dean Krouk, and Todd Ambelang

12:05 PM-12:55 PMMW

Prerequisites: 3 yrs of Norwegian, Danish or Swedish or cons inst

Intensive work in spoken and written Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish, based on contemporary readings, for undergraduate and graduate students with a basic command of a Scandinavian language. Required of graduate students.

Scand 408, Old Norse II, 3 credits

Kirsten Wolf, TR, 9:30-10:45

Prerequisites: Scand 407 or cons inst

The course is a direct continuation of 407 Old Norse I. Its primary purpose is a linguistic one: to obtain a reading knowledge of Old Norse-Icelandic through the study of Old Icelandic grammar and selections of Old Norse-Icelandic texts. The course builds on the aspects of grammar studied in 407 Old Norse I and focuses on verbal morphology and syntax. Moreover, students will translate a variety of Old Norse-Icelandic texts, both prose and poetry, in order to increase their vocabulary.

Email address of instructor for any questions: kirstenwolf@wisc.edu

411 Areas in Scandinavian Literature: Norden, 1 credit

Scott Mellor, W 4:00 PM-5:15 PM

Prerequisites: 5 semesters or equiv in a Scand language

This course will offer an introduction to the cultures and societies of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden by looking at the 19th century, beginning with the Romantic period and continuing with the literary period called the Norden Breakthrough or literature of indignation. These two literary periods mark the golden age of Nordic letters where Scandinavian authors were well known throughout the western literary world. Literature of indignation brought up social issues, many of which are still relevant to us today. The course is open to all ILC residents. We will meet on non-dinner weeks and the course will be conducted in English. The course is open to all ILC residents. We will meet on non-dinner weeks and the course will be conducted in English. We will meet on dinner weeks with the Norden students and conduct those lectures in the Nordic languages. Please contact instructor if you are interested in Nordic language part of the course.

Scand 420 / Lit Trans 343 The Woman in Scandinavian Literature, 4 credits

Nete Schmidt, MWF 11:00-11:50

Prerequisites: 2 years of Scandinavian Studies or instructor consent, for interested students

Language of instruction: English

In this class, we will read and discuss a selection of writings by and about Scandinavian Women from the 19th century and till now. We will include short stories, poetry, essays, and some literary criticism. Active participation is encouraged as the class consists of a mixture of lectures and discussions. Through presentations, students will enhance their understanding of and engagement in the materials. The goal is to create a comprehension of the works based on culture, history, and literature. A further important element is drawing comparisons between the Scandinavian Countries and the USA regarding events, cultural backgrounds, and literary expressions of and about women.

Grading Scale: Participation 15% / Presentation 20% / Formal
Essay 15% / Responses, 2 10% / Exams, 2 40%

Email address of instructor for any questions: aschmidt2@wisc.edu

Scand 428 / Lit Trans 428 Literature and Memory, 3 credits

Dean Krouk, TR 1:00-2:15

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Honors optional. For undergraduate majors and non-majors, also open to graduate students

Language of instruction: English

This course investigates the relations between theories of memory, both individual and collective, and modern literary representations of remembering. We survey seminal conceptions of memory in the interdisciplinary field of memory studies, investigating topics such as nostalgia, trauma, personal and cultural identity, war and Holocaust, sites of memory, and autobiographical narrative. Through the avenues opened up by these theoretical frameworks, we consider the narrative forms as well as the ethical and political dimensions of remembering in major novels by Marcel Proust, W. G. Sebald, Merethe Lindstrøm, and Karl Ove Knausgård. Assignments include papers, collaborative bibliography, and presentations.

Texts to be used:

Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*

W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*

Merethe Lindstrøm, *Days in the History of Silence*

Karl Ove Knausgård, *My Struggle*

Course reader containing additional readings

Email address of instructor for any questions: krouk@wisc.edu

Scand 432 / History 432: History of Scandinavia since 1815, 3 credits

Dean Krouk, MW 4:00-5:15

Prerequisites: None, for undergraduate major and non-majors

Language of instruction: English

This course offers a survey of the modern history of Scandinavia and the Nordic region, from 1815 to the present. Our main focus will be on Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland, but students will also have the option to research more about Iceland, Greenland, or Sápmi. Important issues and concepts will include: political and cultural nationalism; modernization and modernity; war experiences and neutrality; social democracy and the Nordic model; gender equality; the European Union; multiculturalism, immigration, and globalization. Students will learn to understand and explain contemporary Northern European culture, politics, and society from an informed historical perspective. In addition to broad knowledge of the Nordic region since 1815, students will gain a more detailed understanding of a research topic of their choice. Knowledge of facts and dates is always critical in a history course. In addition, this course requires you to synthesize information, think critically, engage in debate, and argue

persuasively about important historical and contemporary topics. Assignments include position papers, exams, and a research paper.

Texts to be used:

Byron Nordstrom, *Scandinavia since 1500*.

Mary Hilson, *The Nordic Model: Scandinavia since 1945*

Anu Partanen, *The Nordic Theory of Everything*

Henrik Ibsen, *Ghosts*

Course reader containing assorted articles and book chapters

Email address of instructor for any questions: krouk@wisc.edu

Scand 433 The Scandinavian Tale and Ballad, 4 credits

Scott Mellor, TR, 2:30-3:45

Prerequisites: 2 years of Scand language

The genres of ballad and tale, which originate in the distant past, have sometimes been scorned by the literary establishment, but the fact that they survived through centuries of oral transmission until they were finally recorded in the fairly recent past testifies to their lasting existential appeal. The stories these texts tell are dashingly entertaining and often deeply disturbing: they may offer a profoundly fatalistic view of existence, but they may also voice an angry and, at the same time, humorous protest against oppression. When this narrative type was discovered by scholars and the societal elite during the 19th century, it inspired many first-rank Nordic authors, e.g., Hans Christian Andersen, Henrik Ibsen, Selma Lagerlöf; and in the 20th century it has cast its spell over Isak Dinesen, Villy Sørensen, and Pär Lagerkvist and its influence has moved from literary to other media today. The course examines both the original literature and its modern "imitations" as well as gives an introduction to the critical methodologies that have recently been developed to deal with this seemingly simple, but in reality highly sophisticated, narrative.

Email address of instructor for any questions: samellor@wisc.edu

Scand 435 The Icelandic Sagas, 3 credits

Todd Michelson-Ambelang, MWF, 11:00-11:50

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

The sagas of the Icelanders are a unique set of texts describing the settlement of Iceland in the 9th century. Although virtually no texts exist that chronical how society actually functioned

during this time, the Sagas of the Icelanders provide literary descriptions of settlers, their families, and the creation of the Icelandic state during the Commonwealth Period (930-1220) and up to the point when Iceland swore allegiance to Norway (after 1220). The Sagas of the Icelanders, although works of fiction, provide great insight into life in the Middle Ages. These texts were transmitted for generations orally, before being written down several centuries later. In this course we will read and discuss the Sagas of the Icelanders and engage with them using interdisciplinary frameworks, in order to glean and understand medieval Icelandic society and its values and beliefs. Some of the following frameworks will be utilized in the course: disability studies, women and gender studies, religious studies, legal studies, and comparative literature.

The final grade is determined as follows: classroom participation (20%); 3 exams over the readings and analyses (40%); A paper analyzing one of the sagas, in three drafts (40%).

The textbook for this course is *The Sagas of Icelanders: A Selection*. New York: Penguin Books, 2000 or 2001. Print or Kindle. **ISBN for Print: 9780141000039**

For any questions, please contact Dr. Todd Michelson-Ambelang, todd.ambelang@wisc.edu

Scand 436 / Lit Trans 324 Criminal Utopias, 4 credits

Nete Schmidt, TR 11:00-12:15

Prerequisites: None, open to interested students

Language of instruction: English

Science fiction portrays imaginary realms which illustrate the highest potential for the achievements of the human race, both spiritually in conjunction with ideologies, philosophies, and religions, and technologically in conjunction with technical advances, technological inventions, and practical innovations in our contemporary lives. At the same time, science fiction depicts the lowest common denominator of the potential of humanity in its inherent criticism of existing social human interactions, conditions, and societies. Similarly, crime fiction shows the dualistic nature of the human race in its portrayal of the basest acts of humanity and the most exemplary human reaction to such acts. Hence, both genres are related in their exploration of the nature of good and evil and, consequently, eminently capable of spurring existential discussions about the role of humankind and our power to influence our surroundings. They both question the essence of the status quo and yield different answers to such essential questions as the nature of personal identities, values, beliefs, and worldviews. Obviously, since they both allow a critique of contemporary society, it is, then, very relevant to ask why one genre is more popular than the other in Scandinavia. This course will attempt to answer that question. It will, furthermore, include an examination of the origins of science fiction and the crime literature genre in a broader historical perspective, drawing on British and American texts and theories. Through the reading of a variety of novels and short stories, as

well as viewing of films, the course aims to heighten the ability of the students to engage in analytical and critical thinking, voice coherent argumentation, explore, examine, reason, and write academic essays. The investigation of human issues is relevant to all literature courses; science fiction and crime literature is particularly relevant in its enquiry into human nature for better and worse, and this course will focus on the particular Scandinavian response to the above-mentioned questions as portrayed in two popular culture genres. For more information, please visit:

http://www.scandinavian.wisc.edu/schmidt/danish/Criminal%20Utopias/index_2017.htm

Email address of instructor for any questions: aschmidt2@wisc.edu

Scand 475/Lit Trans 275 The Writings of Hans Christian Andersen for Scandinavian Majors, 3-4 credits

Scott Mellor, TR, 11:00-12:15

Prerequisites: 2 years of Scand language or consent of instructor, 4th cr for Com-B students only, open to Freshmen

Andersen is a splendid storyteller--he entertains us well--but in order to dispel some common, but sorely mistaken, notions about him, please keep in mind that Andersen is not a sweetly amiable, pleasant, sentimentally naive and childlike storyteller. He can pretend to be all that, but the best of his tales have a sting; they are humorous, but darkly so; and they probe into moral and existential issues that remain with us. Hans Christian Andersen loved to tell stories to children, but he loathed the reputation that he was only a children's author. His stories explore the human soul and deal with its complexity. Do not expect simplicity--expect the opposite! In this class, we will examine a number of Hans Christian Andersen's tales, well-known as well as not well-known, while we also explore Andersen's 19th century context and how he can still speak to us today.

Email address of instructor for any questions: samellor@wisc.edu

Scand 511 Paleography and Philology - Old Norse, 3 credits

Kirsten Wolf, TR, 11:00-12:15

Prerequisites: Scand/Medieval 407 or 408

The focus is the history of writing in Iceland 1150-1550 on the basis of manuscripts as principal sources of evidence for Old Norse-Icelandic. The course builds on Old Norse 407 and 408. It provides a brief survey of the development of the Icelandic language from the 12th century to the Reformation (1550), and the history of writing and writing materials are treated in detail. The development of writing in the Norse area is examined primarily on the basis of exercises in

transcribing medieval manuscripts. Students are trained in dating manuscripts on the basis of paleographic and orthographic features and introduced to editorial methods and principles.

Email address of instructor for any questions: kirstenwolf@wisc.edu

Scan 635 Survey of Scandinavian Literature: 1800-1890, 3 credits

Susan Brantly, MW, 2:30-3:45

Prerequisites: A good knowledge of a modern Scandinavian language.

Language of instruction: English, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian

This course will examine key texts of the Romantic movement in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. It is during the Romantic era that the major folklore collections have their heyday, and we will examine the nation-building aspects of Romanticism, as well as other major features.

The final grade is determined as follows: 3 credits: Weekly reaction papers (40 %), Presentation (30%), Final Paper (30%)

Students will be provided with a compendium of poetry and other relevant texts. All texts will be read in the original language.

Email address of instructor for any questions: sbrantly@wisc.edu