Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies

Velkommen to the Scandinavian Program!

SCAN 414: Topics in Danish and Northern European Cultural Studies (English)

Acknowledgement
UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The land upon which it is situated has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Danish
UBC’s Point Grey Campus er placeret på Musqueam-folkets nedarvede, traditionsrigt og ikke retsmæssigt afståede territorium. Området, hvorpå det er placeret, har altid fungeret som et rum for læring for Musqueam-folket, som i årtusinder har videregivet deres historie, kultur og traditioner fra én generation til den næste på dette sted.

Swedish
UBC Vancouver ligger på xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam)-folktets traditionella, nedärvda och icke överlåtna territorium. Det landområde campus är placerat på, har alltid varit en plats för lärande för Musqueam-folket, som i årtusenden har fört vidare sin kultur, historia och traditioner från en generation till nästa på denna mark.

COURSE INFORMATION

Title: Scandinavian Studies    Code: SCAN 414A     Section: 001     Credit Value: 3

Meeting Times: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9-10pm

UBC Schedule: http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?page=deadlines

Meeting Locations: Buchanan B309

CONTACTS

Instructor: Ann-Kathrine Havemose

Contact: Make sure to check Announcements on Canvas regularly. This will be our main tool to communicate but you can also email me at
Office hours: Mondays 1-1:30 and Wednesday 3-3:30 in Buchanan Tower 905

Fika (the Swedish word for having coffee/tea together):

Drop-in 4-5 pm on Wednesdays in Cenes Lounge (Room 910), 9th floor, Buchanan Tower from TBA

https://cenes.ubc.ca/events/event/fika/

DISCLAIMER

The material in this course includes content that might be offensive and upsetting to some readers, such as strong language, reference to and consumption of alcohol and drugs, violence, graphic and sexual imagery. Some also deal with sensitive issues, such as suicide, death, and sexual abuse. Part of this course will centre around the violent topic of racism and (to some extent) white supremacy, and I, as your instructor, recognise that this course will be made up of people of different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds that could potentially take offence and/or feel violated by this course material. None of the course material has been chosen with the explicit intention of being provocative or offensive, but rather with the intention of highlighting topics that are essential for you to build an understanding of the geo-political area we will be working with in the course.

This course is not designed for you to memories its content, and there will be no quizzes to test your ability to cram information. Rather, this course is designed to engage students in their own learning, here understood as the ability and willingness to approach the materials from a critical perspective and encourage critical thinking.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

In this course, we will take a critical look at the Nordic countries (Denmark especially) in relation to politics, history and contemporary problematics through topics such as racism, immigration, feminism, equality and colonisation. Each topic will be highlighted through different media and perspectives which will allow you to 1) gain an understanding of the history of and reasons for the Nordic mindset and cultural development, 2) expand your understanding of your own as well as other cultures and 3) react to and discuss topics in a mature and reflected way going forward.

This class will rely somewhat heavily on student participation (i.e. in-class group work, group presentations etc.) and so each of you will be responsible for your own learning, and, to some extent, what you and your class-mates gets out of this course. Be respectful to your classmates by being as prepared and engaged as possible.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course (i.e. with active attendance and participation, completion of reading and writing assignments, and exams) students will be individually and cooperatively able to:

- **Describe** cultural tendencies in the Nordic countries today, and **asses** their impact on cultural and intellectual life within the area and in a western context.
- **Define** important concepts and **identify** historical and cultural contexts surrounding their emergence and development.
- **Recognize** aspects of gender, sexuality and social standing in the area and cultural products discussed.
- **Analyse** texts in context (i.e. to genre, topic, media etc.) and **compare** their content and cultural contexts with other cultural products.
- **Respond** to thematic questions in clear and concise form.
- **Maturely identify** civic and political debate and **participate in them in a way that is respectful to your fellow debaters, your audience as well as the people/topics you are discussing.**
- **Interact** with violent and/or offensive material in a **respectful, mature and constructive** manner.

ASSESSMENT

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class presentations (and feedback)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written evaluations</td>
<td>30 % (15% per assignment)</td>
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<td>Term paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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LEARNING MATERIALS

**Texts (required, available at UBC Bookstore or various webshops):**


Strömquist, Liv (2018). *Fruit of Knowledge: The Vulva vs. The Patriarchy*

COURSE STRUCTURE (subject to change)

This course is divided into 5 modules each spanning 2-3 weeks. Within each module we will be examining different problematics or themes through either sociological, socio-political, historical, satirical or literary texts.

The whole semester will be concluded with the construction of a creative product that somehow relates to one or more of the topics we’ve explored that will be put on display either online or
somewhere on campus (location TBA) and concluded with a short, written evaluation of your own and your group’s project and efforts.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND CLASSES (subject to change)**

The syllabus is a guideline and an overview. Changes may occur, so remember to keep on top of them. All secondary and/or academic texts will be posted in the individual class tab on Canvas for you to access. Just because it isn’t on the syllabus, doesn’t mean there isn’t any reading.

**Module 1: Introduction**

**Week 1-2**

Monday 01.09: Introduction to the course, the material and assessment

*Reading:* The syllabus (available in Canvas)

Wednesday 01.11: Denmark, Scandinavia and Northern Europe


Friday 01.13: Social democracy 101


Monday 01.16: The Welfare State


Wednesday 01.18: A critical view of the ‘perfect system’: is it worth it?

CREATIVE PROJECT: Group formation finalised Thursday 01.19

Friday 01.20:  GROUP WORK

Use this time to work with your group on your creative project.

Module 2: Nordic childhood

Week 3-5

Monday 01.23:  Children and childhood in the Nordic Countries


Wednesday 01.25:  The Convention of the Rights of The Child


Unicef: The Convention of the Right of the Child (available on Canvas)

Friday 01.27:  Freedom and Responsibility

Reading:  Lindgren, Astrid (1978). Pippi Longstocking, Puffin Modern Classics

Monday 01.30:  Children’s literature and how to read it


Lindgren, Astrid (1978). Pippi Longstocking, Puffin Modern Classics

Wednesday 02.01:  Pippi as a competent child

Reading:  Lindgren, Astrid (1978). Pippi Longstocking, Puffin Modern Classics
Møller, Lis (2017). "Character” in Kjældgaard et al. Literature: an introduction to theory and analysis, Bloomsbury Academic (available through LOCR (see canvas))

Friday 02.03: The importance of play

Reading: Lindgren, Astrid (1978). Pippi Longstocking, Puffin Modern Classics

Monday 02.06: Provocative topics in Children’s culture

Reading: Lindgren, Astrid (1978). Pippi Longstocking, Puffin Modern Classics

Watch: Ultranyt (available on Canvas)

Wednesday 02.08: GROUP WORK

Use this time to work with your group on your creative project.

CREATIVE PROJECT: Initial presentations will be happening week 4-5

Module 3: Accepting ‘the other’

Week 5-9

Friday 02.10: Immigration and integration in the Nordic countries

Reading: Herne, Vilde et al. (2019). "Explaining cross-national differences – three approaches” in Nordic integration and settlement policies for refugees – a comparative analysis of labour market integration outcomes, Nordic Council of Ministers. (available on Canvas)

Monday 02.13: The white history of the Nordic countries

Wednesday 02.15: Kurt Westergaard and Je Suis Charlie


Friday 02.17: Immigrant voices: Shooter Gang

**Reading** Shooter Gang (2019). “Mask på” *Mask på*, Universal Music (available on Canvas)


Week 7:

WINTER BREAK

Week 8:

*Preposition: Movie night watching Ali Abbasi’s Gräns (2018) (Boarder)*

Monday 02.27: Immigrant voices: Yahya Hassan

**Reading:** Hassan, Yahya (2013) and Yahya Hassan (2019) Selected poems (available on Canvas)

**Watch:** Wagner, Marc-Christoph (2014). *Yahya Hassan Interview: Poems of Rage*, The Louisiana Channel (available on Canvas)

Wednesday 03.01: Censorship and Nostalgic Racism: the power of discourse

**Reading:** Hübinette, Tobias (2013). “Swedish Anti-racism and White Melancholia: Racial Words in a Post-racial Society” *Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World*, vol. 4, no. 1, Manchester University Press (available on Canvas)
Friday 03.03: Censorship and Nostalgic Racism: Racism and Children’s literature


Monday 03.06: Option A) Discussion about the movie Gräns and otherness in the Nordic Countries OR B) Group work

Module 4: Greenland

Week 9-11

Wednesday 03.08: Colonisation of Greenland

Reading: Sørensen, Axel Kjær (2007). “Greenland – Denmark in the twentieth century” Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society vol. 34 (available on Canvas)

Friday 03.10: Inuit Culture

Reading: TBA

Monday 03.13: Work from home: Watching Vanishing Point

Watch: Smith, S.A. & Szucs, J. (2012), Vanishing Point (watch on nfb.ca, link on canvas)

Wednesday 03.15: Inuit Culture today [discussion]

Watch: Smith, S.A. & Szucs, J. (2012), Vanishing Point (watch on nfb.ca, link on canvas)

Friday 03.17: Last Night in Nuuk and critical literature

Monday 03.20: Rediscovering traditions and navigating post-colonialism


Wednesday 03.22: Rediscovering or reinventing inuit identity


CREATIVE PROJECT: Process presentations will be happening week 9-11

Module 5: Equality and gender in the Nordic Countries

Week 11-13

Friday 03.24: Gender Branding and equality in the Nordic Countries


Monday 03.27: Framing gender inequality

Reading: Møller, L. C. Et al. (2021). *Nordic Gender Equality in Figures 2021*, Nordic Council of Ministers (available on Canvas)

Wednesday 03.29: Feminism vs. equality

Reading: TBA

Friday 03.31: Menstrual activism

Reading: Strömquist, Liv (2018). *Fruit of Knowledge: The Vulva vs. The Patriarchy*

Monday 04.03: *Fruit of Knowledge* and how to read comic books

Reading: Strömquist, Liv (2018). *Fruit of Knowledge: The Vulva vs. The Patriarchy*
Wednesday 04.05: Critical Comic Books

   Reading: Strömquist, Liv (2018). *Fruit of Knowledge: The Vulva vs. The Patriarchy*

Friday 04.07: GOOD FRIDAY, NO CLASS

**Week 14:**

Monday 04.10: EASTER MONDAY, NO CLASS

Wednesday 04.12: LAST CLASS, PROJECT PRESENTATIONS