



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 xwməθkwəyəm (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

UBCs Point Grey Campus er placeret på Musqueam-folkets nedarvede, traditionsrige og ikke retsmæssigt afståede territorie. 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 xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam)-folkets 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

annkathrine.havemose@mail.ubc.ca (disclaimer: I will not be answering emails on weekends)

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 memorise 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 get 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

Participation	10%
In-class presentations (and feedback)	25%
Written evaluations	30 % (15% per assignment)
Term paper	35%

LEARNING MATERIALS

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

Korneliussen, Niviaq (2018). *Last Night in Nuuk*, trans. Anna Halager, Black Cat, New York

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

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. 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

Reading: Hilson, Mary (2008): "Introduction: The Historical Meanings of Scandinavia" in: *The Nordic Model. Scandinavia Since 1945*. London: Reaktion Books Ltd. (available on Canvas)

Friday 01.13: Social democracy 101

Reading: Meyer, Thomas (2007). "Introduction" and "Libertarian and Social Democracies Compared" in *The Theory of Social Democracy*, Polity, pp 1-6 and 209-220 (available on Canvas)

Monday 01.16: The Welfare State

Reading: Davos (2011). *The Nordic Way*, World Economic Forum (available on Canvas)

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

Reading: Marklund, Carl (2021). "The Utopian Trap: Between contested Swedish Models and benign Nordic branding" in Byrkefjot, Haldor et al. *The Making and Circulation of Nordic Models, Ideas and Images*, Routledge (available on Canvas)

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

Reading: Widhe, Olle (2017). "Inventing Subjectivity and the Rights of the Child in Nineteenth-Century Nordic Children's Literature" in *Nordic childhoods 1700-1960: from folk beliefs to Pippi Longstocking*, Taylor & Francis Group (available on Canvas)

Wednesday 01.25: The Convention of the Rights of The Child

Reading: Christensen, Nina & Appel, Charlotte (2021). "Chapter 5. New roles and new rights for children, 1950-2000" in *Children's Literature in the Nordic World*, Aarhus University Press (available on Canvas)

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

Reading: Christensen, Nina & Appel, Charlotte (2021). "Chapter 5. New roles and new rights for children, 1950-2000" in *Children's Literature in the Nordic World*, Aarhus University Press (available on Canvas)

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: Ultrantyt (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: Hernes, 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

Reading: Lundström, Catrin and Teitelbaum, Benjamin R. (2017). "Nordic Whiteness: An Introduction" in *Scandinavian Studies*, vol. 89, no. 2, Nordic Whiteness pp. 151-158, University of Illinois Press on behalf of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (available on Canvas)

Wednesday 02.15: Kurt Westergaard and Je Suis Charlie

Reading: Rumenjak, N. (2019) "Freedom of expression in multicultural societies: Political cartooning in Europe in the modern and postmodern eras" *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*, vol. 10, no. 2, p- 167-189 (available on Canvas)

Friday 02.17: Immigrant voices: Shooter Gang

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

Watch: Noisy (2019). "The Masked Drillers of Denmark's Ghettos: Shooter Gang" *Gangsta Rap International*, Vice Video

https://video.vice.com/en_uk/video/the-masked-drillers-of-denmarks-ghettos-shooter-gang/61544da4dbdd617a8a68ff6d

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

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)

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

Reading: Korneliussen, Niviaq (2018). *Last Night in Nuuk*, trans. Anna Halager, Black Cat, New York

Monday 03.20: Rediscovering traditions and navigating post-colonialism
Reading: Korneliussen, Niviaq (2018). *Last Night in Nuuk*, trans. Anna Halager, Black Cat, New York

Wednesday 03.22: Rediscovering or reinventing inuit identity
Reading: Korneliussen, Niviaq (2018). *Last Night in Nuuk*, trans. Anna Halager, Black Cat, New York

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
Listen: Larsen, Eirinn (2021). *Norway: Uncovering Gender and Branding in the Nordics with Eirinn Larsen*, Nordics.info (available on Canvas)

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