Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies

Welcome to the Nordic Program!

NORD 336: Nordic Crime Fiction, Film and Television (in English)

Term 1 Winter 2026

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.

COURSE INFORMATION

Title: Nordic Cinema **Code:** NORD 336 **Section:** 201 **Credit Value**: 3

Meeting Times: Asynchronous online

CONTACT:

Instructor: Dr. Karin Filipsson

Contact: Make sure to check Announcements on Canvas regularly. This will be our main tool to communicate but you can also email me at karin.filipsson@ubc.ca

Office: Buchanan Tower Room 905

Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom.

PREREQUISITES None.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to Scandinavian crime literature, film and TV series and to learn about the Nordic countries since the crime genre offers the potential of mirroring contemporary society in a particularly effective manner. We will highlight such recognizable themes as global issues, migration problems, environmental concerns, and gender roles as well as stylistic analysis of the individual works and the genre in general.

For most Modules, I will post a PPT with relevant background information and links to videos/readings related to the material. After reading the books/watching the films, you will be expected to discuss the material in Discussions on Canvas. Students are encouraged to comment on each-others' contributions.

HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE AND WITH ONLINE-LEARNING

- Read the syllabus in its entirety and familiarize yourself with our Canvas page
- Participate as much as you can. Remember that you are part of a learning community!
- Communicate with your classmates and support each other.
- Contact me for questions and if there is anything that may be affecting your learning or performance, please reach out via email.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify major influences and authors in the field of Nordic crime fiction from the 1960s to the present
- Gain an awareness of contemporary Nordic society and its dominant interests through crime fiction (i.e. using crime fiction as a cultural lens)
- Identify themes like migration, gender roles, landscape and crime and how they inflect the texts/films in question
- Reflect critically on Nordic culture and society
- Recognize traits of Nordic literature and film
- Develop your critical thinking skills by requiring you to construct and defend your own interpretations of texts/films written form
- Continue studying other Nordic courses

Learning about Nordic literature and film will expose you to modes of thought and behavior outside your own language and culture. It will make you curious about other types of societies and make you ask questions about your own. It will also prepare you for further studies of literature, film and culture courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For Canvas and on-line part of this course, you will need a computer or tablet with a microphone that has the capacity to view and/or download documents from Microsoft Word (including PPT), video and audio capacity, a keyboard, and headphones. If you encounter technical issues while using Canvas, please contact the UBC Information Technology Service Centre for assistance, using their online form. For more general information see: https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/

LEARNING MATERIALS

Texts and films/TV-shows will be available on Canvas/ in LOCR.

Books: (additional materials TBD)

Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade: *Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to the Bridge*.

Mette Hjort and Ursula Lindqvist: *A Companion to Nordic Cinema.*

Ryan, Michael and Lenos, Melissa: ***An Introduction to Film Analysis: Technique and Meaning in Narrative Film***.

Thomsen, Mads Rosendahl, Lasse Horne Kjældgaard, Lis Møller, Lilian Munk Rösing, Peter Simonsen, Dan Ringgaard, eds. 2017 *Literature: An Introduction to Theory and Analysis.*

Mankell, Henning. *Faceless Killers*.

Läckberg, Camilla. *The Ice Princess* and *The Preacher*.

Wahlöö Per, Maj Sjövall. *Martin Beck*. (audiobook)

Films and TV-series: (additional materials TBD)

Oplev, Niels Arden: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.* 2009.

Rosenfeldt, Hans: *The Bridge,* 2011–2017.

Veena Sud. *The Killing.* 2011.

Hannu Salonen. *Arctic Circle*. 2018.

Erik Skjoldbjærg. *Insomnia*. 1997.

Additional materials:

Podcasts and video-lectures

TBA (You can find links to background readings/viewings, interviews on Canvas in conjunction with each Module).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND CLASSES (subject to change)

Week 1 Introduction	Read	
Sep 9	Syllabus Introduction to Course What is Nordic Noir?	Introduction to Course What is Nordic Noir?
Module 1 Nordic Noir	**Read and listen**	**Watch**
Week 2	1) Introduction. "Where is Nordic Noir?" 2) Chapter 13. "The Bridge, Transnational Co-productions and Screen Tourism". Both texts are IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade.	The Bridge
Week 3.	Podcast. The Bridge	Lecture on Scandinavian Noir by Nete Schmidt

Module 2. Perspectives on The Nordics	Read and listen	Watch
Week 4.	." 1) Chapter 4. "Four perspectives on the Nordic Region". 2) Chapter 8. "The Killing and DR's Danish Model". IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade.	. The Story of Scandinavian Crime Fiction .Who was Olof Palme? Director Bo Widerberg. The Nordic Model.
Week 5.	The Martin Beck-series. BBC Dramatization	Insomnia.
Module 3. Sweden and Finland	**Read and listen**	**Watch**
Week 6.	1) Chapter 5. "Stieg Larsson and Scandinavian Crime Literature as a Stepping Stone". 2) Chapter 11. "Blue Eyes and the Rise of the Swedish Original". IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade. 3) The Captivating Chill: Why Readers Desire Nordic Noir.	The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
Week 7.	Henning Mankell; Faceless Killers Camilla Läckberg: The Ice Princess. Podcast: Stieg larsson. Podcast: Introduction to Nordic Noir	Folkhemmet. Crime Fiction the oldest Genre.

Module 4. Denmark	Read and listen	Watch
Week 8	1) 22. "The Writing of Television Drama Issues of Creative Collaboration and Authorship in Danish Writers' Rooms". Eva Novrup Redvall. IN A Companion to Nordic Cinema. Mette Hjort & Ursula Lindqvist. 2) Chapter 6. "Beck and Character Adaptations." IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade. 3) Isabel Pinedo. "The Killing: the Gender Politics of the Nordic Noir Crime Drama and its American Remake."	The Killing
Week 9	Podcast: Danish twist Nordic Crime Fiction	Gender Equality in Scandinavia
Week 10	BREAK	
Module 5. Iceland and Norway	**Read and listen**	**Watch**
Week 11.	1) Chapter 12. "Trapped and Original Noir from Iceland and Norway." IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade. 2) "Nordic Remakes in Hollywood. Reconfiguring Originals and Copies." Anna Westerståhl Stenport. IN A Companion to Nordic Cinema. Mette Hjort & Ursula Lindqvist	
Week 12	Podcast: Iceland and Finland Karin Fossum: Broken	Arctic Circle
Week 13.	Chapter 14. "Conclusion: Nordic Noir Beyond the Nordic. "IN Locating Nordic Noir: From Beck to Bridge. Kim Toft Hansen and Anne Marit Waade.	
Week 14.		

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Grade breakdown:

Learning journals	25
Scene Analysis	25
Final Project	40
Project proposal	10
Total	100

Learning journals (5 +2 peer responses) (20%):

You will complete regular discussion posts on canvas which will guide your reading progress in our class. These are designed to make sure that you are following the reading schedule. They are also educational tools that help you think critically about the material covered.

Scene Analysis (25%):

Analyze a specific part from one of the novels or a film/TV scene of your choice.

Project proposal (10 %)

You will submit a project proposal of two-three paragraphs describing your plan for the final project.

Final Project (40%)

In your final project you find interesting about Nordic Crime Fiction, Film, and Television and explore it on a deeper level, either individually, in pairs or in groups of maximum 3. It could be to discuss another crime writer, some intriguing cultural phenomena or highlight a diverse and inclusive perspective of Nordic cultures, including Indigenous, LGBTQ+, the environment, aspects of Nordic society, family structure etc. Sharing options could be a Power Point; a comic; a short film, podcast, vlog, art project or an essay.

Assessment Policies

In order to successfully complete the requirements for NORD 336, students must achieve a total grade of at least 50% for the course.

In accordance with university regulations, cheating and plagiarism is subject to disciplinary action. Students in the Nordic Program must write, correct and/or revise all their assignments independently; that is, with no assistance of any kind from another person. See: http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/citing-sources-is-about-more-than-just-following-the-rules/

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic

standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website.

Academic Code of Honour

Academic honesty and integrity are essential principles of the University of British Columbia. All UBC students are expected to behave as honest and responsible members of our academic community and to uphold the highest standards of ethics and academic integrity. As a student in the Nordic Program, you will be required to abide by the principles and policies of the University with respect to academic honesty and integrity and affirm a pledge to uphold them.

Academic Integrity

"Students are responsible for informing themselves of the guidelines of acceptable and nonacceptable conduct for graded assignments established by their instructors for specific courses and of [...] examples of academic misconduct [...]" (http://bit.ly/2aIaXji). "All work submitted by students (including, without limitation, essays, dissertations, theses, examinations, tests, reports, presentations, problem sets, and tutorial assignments) may be reviewed by the University for authenticity and originality. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such review may include the use of software tools and third-party services including Internet-based services such as TurnItIn.com. By submitting work, students consent to their work undergoing such review and being retained in a database for comparison with other work submitted by students. The results of such review may be used in any University investigation or disciplinary proceedings"

Anything you use in your written work, directly or indirectly, must be cited (e.g., if you are paraphrasing or using a quotation, if you are using class notes or lecture slides, etc.). Not citing and making reference to the quotation and the original source constitutes academic dishonesty. **Cases of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will receive zero credit and will be forwarded to the Dean's Office, in accordance with UBC policy**. It is your responsibility as a student to fully and carefully read the information in the following web links, which offer detailed information concerning plagiarism:

Plagiarism Resource Centre For Students Academic Regulations
http://help.library.ubc.ca/planning-your-research/academic-integrity-plagiarism/

According to the UBC Academic Calendar, "Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own...when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation." To sum it up, plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another person and submitting them without the proper acknowledgement of the original author.

A note about ChatGPT and AI Writing Tools

In the Nordic program, we discourage the use of ChatGPT (or a similar tool) in general. You must declare that you have used it, with a couple of sentences describing the extent to which it was used, and you must save any generated text from this tool in case it is requested. Failure to provide a proper reference and description will be considered a breach of academic integrity and an academic misconduct.

COPYRIGHT

All materials of this course are the intellectual property of the instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. That includes materials uploaded to Canvas by the instructor and shared with students on Canvas and are for the use of those students registered in that class, and only by them, and are not to be downloaded, uploaded and shared elsewhere. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline.

Students are not permitted to record the Nordic classes.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER TAKING THIS COURSE?

- Pursue a minor in Nordic Studies https://cenes.ubc.ca/undergraduate/nordic-studies/

- Study (more) Swedish or Danish https://cenes.ubc.ca/undergraduate/nordic-studies/

- Take more Nordic-related courses at UBC https://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/courseschedule?pname=subjarea&tname=subj-department&dept=NORD

- Read our brochure about the Nordic Program at the bottom of this page https://cenes.ubc.ca/undergraduate/nordic-studies/

- Join the Scandinavian and Nordic Students' Association (the SCAN/NORD student club at UBC) ubcscandinaviannordic@gmail.com or follow them on Insta @ubcsnsa

- Study in one of the Nordic countries https://global.ubc.ca/go-global