

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 SCAND 328-A1
[71948, A1: Scandinavian Crime Fiction]
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. John F. Eason III
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Time: TR 2:00PM-3:20PM
Place: HC 2 37
Office Hour: W 2:00PM-3:00PM or by apt.

Course Prerequisite: None

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (Please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

Contemporary Scandinavian crime fiction has garnered considerable critical and popular attention. In this course students will read and analyze recent crime novels from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland. These works will be framed in a literary historical context, and major trends and authors in the field of Scandinavian crime fiction from the time of the ground-breaking Swedish duo Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö to current writers such as Henning Mankell, Karin Fossum, and Arnaldur Indriðason will be discussed. We will use crime fiction as a cultural mirror, and students will employ this genre to explore the Scandinavian Welfare State and the role of and attitudes towards multiculturalism, gender, children, and the environment in contemporary Scandinavia. We will also screen several films adaptations of Scandinavian crime fiction works.

This course is designed to help you:

1. Develop a familiarity with major themes, influences, and authors in the field of Scandinavian crime fiction from the 1960s to the present
2. Gain an awareness of contemporary Scandinavian society and its dominant interests through crime fiction (i.e. employing crime fiction as a cultural mirror)
3. Reflect critically on your own culture and society
4. Develop your critical thinking skills by requiring you to construct and defend your own interpretations of texts in oral and written form
5. Improve your writing skills by working on writing assignments-including a book review

Texts: (available at University of Alberta Bookstore): *

Arnaldur Indriðason. *Jar City*. Trans. Bernard Scudder. Toronto: Random House, 2005. Print. Trans. of *Mýrin*. Reykjavik: Vaka-Helgafell, 2000.

Fossum, Karin. *He Who Fears the Wolf*. Trans. Felicity David. London: Random House, 2003. Print. Trans. of *Den som frykter ulven*. Oslo: Cappelen, 1997.

Høeg, Peter. *Smilla's Sense of Snow*. Trans. Tiina Nunnally. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993. Print. Trans. of *Frøken Smilla's fornemmelse for sne*. Copenhagen: Rosinante/Munksgaard, 1992.

Larsson, Stieg. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Trans. Reg Keeland. New York: Vintage, 2009. Print. Trans. of *Män Som Hatar Kvinnor*. Stockholm: Norstedts, 2005.

Mankell, Henning. *Sidetracked*. Trans. Steven T. Murray. New York: Vintage, 1999. Print. Trans. of *Villospår*. Stockholm: Ordfront, 1995.

*Alternate formats (Kindle, iBooks, etc.) and editions other than the ones specified are acceptable substitutes if you wish to purchase online.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments	15%
Weekly Response Paragraphs	15%
Book Review (due by 5pm, Thurs., Dec. 6)	20%
Midterm Exam (Tues., Oct. 30)	25%
Final Exam (Fri., Dec. 14 @ 2pm)	25%

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations \(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments 15%:

The course utilizes a combination of lecture and discussion and requires your presence and active participation at each class meeting. It is expected that you will show through class discussion and small group work in class that you have read the material, given careful thought to the meaning of the readings, and prepared responses to study questions. Each individual contribution is important to learning in the class. Your daily grade is based on the degree to which you:

- Attend class regularly, arrive on time, and remain for the entire duration;
- Are engaged and focused during lectures, group work, and class discussion;
- Contribute actively to class discussions;
- Demonstrate you have read the material through your contribution of well-informed and reflective interpretations, comments, and questions in class;
- Show respect for your classmates’ contributions to class;
- Take responsibility to ask for clarification or further discussion of an assignment when necessary;

NOTE: You may miss (for whatever reason: illness, family wedding, etc.) three classes without an adverse effect to your final grade. More than **three** absences during the semester, however, will result in a reduction of your final participation mark by one letter grade for each additional absence above three. Please note, this does not mean you may miss more classes with a note, a valid excuse, etc. Also note that film screenings are required. If you fail to attend a film screening or leave in the middle, you will be counted absent.

Weekly Response Paragraphs 15%:

One response paragraph per week (200-250 words max) will be required. The purpose of response paragraphs is two-fold: firstly, it shows you’ve read, and secondly, it helps foster discussion. Your response must be typed, printed out, and brought to class. Only printed response

paragraphs will be accepted. No electronic or makeups. These will be collected at the end of class. Your response may be handed in Tuesday or Thursday but must address reading not yet discussed. It will receive a ✓+, ✓, or ✓- contingent on how much I feel you have thought about the text. A more explicit set of guidelines on how to approach response paragraphs including required formatting will be posted on eClass.

Book Review 20%:

You will write a 900-1500-word book review of a Scandinavian crime fiction novel by one of the authors dealt with in course though not the same book as the one we are reading. A set of guidelines will be posted on eClass. The book review will be due by 5pm on Thursday, December 6. Electronic copies are permissible.

Midterm Exam 25%:

The midterm exam will take place Tuesday, October 30 during regular class time. The exam will consist of short answers and essay responses.

Final Exam 25%:

The final exam will take place Friday, December 14 @2pm. Location: HC 2 37. As with the midterm exam the final exam will consist of short answers and essay responses.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan.

Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance and participation are required and will be monitored by a daily attendance sheet.

As stated in the aforementioned ***Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments*** More than **three** absences during the semester will result in a reduction of your final participation mark by one letter grade for each additional absence above two. Please note, this does not mean you may miss more classes with a note, a valid excuse, etc.

Also note that film screenings are required. If you fail to attend a film screening you will be counted absent. Out of respect for the instructor and other students, texting and other cell phone use, as well as the use of laptops for purposes other than notetaking, are not allowed in the classroom. If I feel you are abusing this policy I will give you one email warning. If the behaviour persists it will reflect in your participation mark at the end of the course.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. As stated in the explanatory notes, late response paragraphs or those which fail to follow guidelines will not be accepted. The book review must be submitted on the designated dates. An exception may be made in the case of an extreme emergency but ultimately this is at the discretion of the instructor.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Notes on Grades:

According to the UAPPOL Grading Procedure Policy pre-determined quotas of letter grades in courses are not permitted, though Faculties may recommend grade distributions. Accordingly, on *March 11, 2015*, Arts Faculty Council debated and approved the following motion “The Faculty of Arts recommends that the class average in each undergraduate course fall in a range around the Faculty historical average grade for that course level . . .” The complete policy can be found on the Faculty of Arts intranet, but in summary the effective range for each level will be:

CLASS LEVEL	RANGE FOR CLASS AVERAGE
100	2.48 - 3.08
200	2.63 - 3.23
300	2.72 - 3.32
400**	2.98 - 3.58

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Course Schedule

Weekly Schedule of Topics and Readings

The list below presents weekly topics, questions to ponder related to those topics, readings for each day, and dates for response papers and the presentation. Any necessary changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and by e-mail via eClass. You are responsible to know this schedule well and refer to it often.

Week 1:

Introduction & First Wave of Scandinavian Crime Fiction: Sjöwall & Wahlöö

- Sept. 4 (T): “Move over, Ian Rankin” - John Crace (*The Guardian* / Jan. 23, 2009) (in class)
- Sept. 6 (R): Read “No. 1 With an Umlaut” - Boris Kachka (*New York Magazine* / May 8, 2011) (eClass)
Documentary Screening (*Nordic Noir: The Story of Scandinavian Crime Fiction*)
(No response paragraph for this week.)

Week 2:

- Sept. 11 (T): Excerpt from *Roseanna* (eClass)*

The Second Wave Arrives: Høeg and Mankell

- Sept. 13 (R): Colonialization through the Lens of Crime Fiction
Smilla's Sense of Snow (The City Pt. 1) (Peter Høeg)

Week 3:

- Sept. 18 (T): *Smilla's Sense of Snow (The City Pt. 2)* (Peter Høeg)
- Sept. 20 (R): *Smilla's Sense of Snow (The Sea)* (Peter Høeg)

Week 4:

- Sept. 25 (T): *Smilla's Sense of Snow (The Ice)* (Peter Høeg)
- Sept. 27 (R): Film (*Smilla's Sense of Snow*)

Week 5:

- Oct. 2 (T): “The Place of Pessimism in Henning Mankell’s Kurt Wallander Series” - Shane McCorristine (*Scandinavian Crime Fiction* - Ed. Nestingen and Arvas) (eClass)

Oct. 4 (R): The Dark Side of Globalization
Sidetracked p. 3-205 (Henning Mankell)

Week 6:

Oct. 9 (T): *Sidetracked* p. 205-end (Henning Mankell)

Nationality and Genetics in Icelandic Crime Fiction

Oct. 11 (R): Film (*Sidetracked* – BBC Production)

Week 7:

Oct. 16 (T): *Jar City* (Arnaldur Indriðason)

Oct. 18 (R): **NO CLASS**

Week 8:

Oct. 23 (T): *Jar City* (Arnaldur Indriðason)

Oct. 25 (R): Film (*Jar City*)

Week 9:

Oct. 30 (T): **MIDTERM**

Marginalization in the Scandinavian Welfare State

Nov. 1 (R): *He Who Fears the Wolf* (Karin Fossum)

Week 10:

Nov. 6 (T): *He Who Fears the Wolf* (Karin Fossum)

Nov. 8 (R): *He Who Fears the Wolf* (Karin Fossum)

Week 11:

Nov. 12-16: **M-F – FALL BREAK (Remembrance Day/Reading Week) – NO CLASS**

Week 12:

Nov. 20 (T): Film (*He Who Fears the Wolf*)

Feminism and the Crime Novel

Nov. 22 (R): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (Stieg Larsson)

Week 13:

Nov. 27 (T): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (Stieg Larsson)

Nov. 29 (R): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (Stieg Larsson)

Week 14:

Dec. 4 (T): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (Stieg Larsson)

Dec. 6 (R): Film (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*); **BOOK REVIEW DUE**

Dec. 14 (F): **FINAL EXAM @ 2pm**. Location same as class: HC 2 37