

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

**2020-2021 SCAND 328-A1**  
*[85983, A1: Scandinavian Crime Fiction]*  
(Fall Term)

*Note: Remote Delivery via Zoom*

Please note, this syllabus has been modified from the original for privacy reasons. Students should log into their eClass account for the official version.

Instructor: Dr. John F. Eason III  
Office: Remote  
E-mail: [easoniii@ualberta.ca](mailto:easoniii@ualberta.ca)

Time: TR 2-3:20pm  
Place: Remote delivery via Zoom  
Office Hour: W 2-3pm or by apt. via Zoom

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** None

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html>

In order to participate in SCAND 328: Scandinavian Crime Fiction this fall, you need a computer/laptop/tablet with Internet access, a microphone and a camera for participation in class.

**Experiential Learning Component**

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

- Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**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

### **Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

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.

#### **By the end of this course, students will have:**

- a familiarity with major themes, influences, and authors in the field of Scandinavian crime fiction from the 1960s to the present
- an awareness of contemporary Scandinavian society and its dominant interests through crime fiction (i.e. employing crime fiction as a cultural mirror)
- reflected critically on their own culture and society
- developed their critical thinking skills by constructing and defending their own interpretations of texts in oral and written form
- improved their writing skills by working on writing assignments-including a book review

#### **Course Format**

Objectives will be learned from formal lectures, assigned readings, class and small group discussions and audiovisual materials. The course will be delivered via Zoom synchronously, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:20pm.

Join Zoom Meeting (Tuesdays/Thursdays) 2-3:20pm:

#### **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.

Sjöwall, Maj and Per Wahlöö. *Roseanna*. Trans. Lois Roth. Toronto: Bantam Books, 1967. Trans. of *Roseanna*. Stockholm: Norstedts, 1965.

\*Alternate formats (Kindle, iBooks, etc.) and editions other than the ones specified are acceptable substitutes if you prefer an electronic version.

### Additional Course Fees

Yes

No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): 9am, Monday, December 17, 2020

### Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=9816&hl=%22academic+regulations%22&returnto=search#examinations\\_exams](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=9816&hl=%22academic+regulations%22&returnto=search#examinations_exams)

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

### Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments	25%
Book Review (due by 5pm, Thurs., Dec. 10)	25%
Midterm Exam (Thurs., Oct. 29, from 2-4pm)	25%
Final Exam (Mon., Dec. 17, from 9-11am)	25%

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

### **Attendance, Participation, and In-class Assignments 25%:**

With regard to attendance, you are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (preferably) to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to make up work and learn the material for classes you miss.

Please note, that more than **two** absences during the semester will result in a reduction of your final participation mark by one letter grade for each additional absence above two. For more detail, please consult the section *Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components* below.

In-class participation is vital to your success in this course. This is also true for the remote environment for this fall term. For Scandinavian Crime Fiction, this means we will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays via Zoom video conferencing. To join the class you must click the provided Zoom link. During the video conferencing sessions, you are expected to participate just like in a regular classroom: interacting with your classmates and the instructor, doing a variety of activities. You will need a microphone so that everyone can hear you and we also encourage you to switch on your camera (because nobody wants to talk to a black screen 😊).

In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. Specifically, it is expected that you will show through class discussion and small group work 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, join 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: Film and documentary screenings are required. If you fail to attend a film screening or leave in the middle, you will be counted absent. Most will be screened during regular class time, remotely of course, using Zoom.

### **Book Review 25%:**

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 together. A set of guidelines will be posted on eClass well in advance. The book review will be due by 5pm on Thursday, December 10. It must be typed using Microsoft Word (the program is free through the university; see [Office 365 Education](#) for more

information.) and submitted to me via email [easoniii@ualberta.ca](mailto:easoniii@ualberta.ca) It must be a Word doc, not a PDF.

**Midterm Exam 25%:**

The midterm exam will take place Thursday, October 29 from 2-4pm. The midterm will consist of short answers and essay responses. It will be posted on eClass and must be typed using Microsoft Word and submitted to me via email [easoniii@ualberta.ca](mailto:easoniii@ualberta.ca) Again, it must be a Word doc, not a PDF.

**Final Exam 25%:**

The final exam will take place Monday, December 17 from 9-11am. The final like the midterm will consist of short answers and essay responses. Also like the midterm, the final will be posted on eClass and must be typed using Microsoft Word and submitted to me via email [easoniii@ualberta.ca](mailto:easoniii@ualberta.ca) Again, a Word doc, not a PDF.

**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](#) 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](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***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*).

***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 **two** absences during the semester will result in a reduction of your final participation mark by one letter grade for each additional absence above two.

***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.

***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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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:

<b>CLASS LEVEL</b>	<b>RANGE FOR CLASS AVERAGE</b>
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.

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#### **Week 1:**

##### **Introduction**

Sept. 1 (T): Course Introduction

Sept. 3 (R): “Move over, Ian Rankin” - John Crace (*The Guardian* / Jan. 23, 2009)  
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:**

##### **First Wave of Scandinavian Crime Fiction: Sjöwall & Wahlöö**

Sept. 8 (T): *Roseanna* (Ch. 1-2) (Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö)

Sept. 10 (R): *Roseanna* (Ch. 3-4) (Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö)

#### **Week 3:**

##### **The Second Wave Arrives: Høeg and Mankell**

Sept. 15 (T): Colonialization through the Lens of Crime Fiction  
*Smilla's Sense of Snow* (*The City Pt. 1*) (Peter Høeg)

Sept. 17 (R): *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (*The City Pt. 2*) (Peter Høeg)

#### **Week 4:**

Sept. 22 (T) *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (*The Sea*) (Peter Høeg)

Sept. 24 (R): *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (*The Ice*) (Peter Høeg)

**Week 5:**

Sept. 29 (T): *Smilla's Sense of Snow (The Ice)* (Peter Høeg)

Oct. 1 (R): Film (*Smilla's Sense of Snow*)  
(Finish for homework if necessary)

**Week 6:**

Oct. 6 (T): "The Place of Pessimism in Henning Mankell's Kurt Wallander Series" -  
Shane McCristine (*Scandinavian Crime Fiction* - Ed. Nestingen and Arvas)  
(eClass)

Oct. 8 (R): The Dark Side of Globalization  
*Sidetracked (Prologue-Ch. 21)* (Henning Mankell)

**Week 7:**

Oct. 13 (T): *Sidetracked (Ch. 22-Epilogue)* (Henning Mankell)

**Nationality and Genetics in Icelandic Crime Fiction**

Oct. 15 (R): Film (*Sidetracked*)

**Week 8:**

Oct. 20 (T): *Jar City (Ch. 1-15)* (Arnaldur Indriðason)

Oct. 22 (R): *Jar City (Ch. 16-45)* (Arnaldur Indriðason)

**Week 9:**

Oct. 27 (T): Film (*Jar City*)

Oct. 29 (R): **MIDTERM EXAM** (from 2-4pm)

**Week 10:**

**Marginalization in the Scandinavian Welfare State**

Nov. 3 (T): *He Who Fears the Wolf (Ch. 1-7)* (Karin Fossum)

Nov. 5 (R): *He Who Fears the Wolf (Ch. 8-16)* (Karin Fossum)

**Week 11:**

Nov. 6 (T): *He Who Fears the Wolf (Ch. 17-22)* (Karin Fossum)

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

**Week 12:**

Nov. 9-13: **M-F – FALL BREAK (Remembrance Day/Reading Week) – NO CLASS**

**Week 13:**

**Feminism and the Crime Novel**

Nov. 17 (T): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Part 1)* (Stieg Larsson)

Nov. 19 (R): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Part 2)* (Stieg Larsson)

**Week 14:**

Nov. 24 (T): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Part 3)* (Stieg Larsson)

Nov. 26 (R): *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Part 4 & Epilogue)* (Stieg Larsson)

**Week 15:**

Dec. 1 (T): Film (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*)

Dec. 3 (R): Film (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) *continued.*

Dec. 10 (R) **BOOK REVIEW DUE** (due by 5pm)

Dec. 17 (R): **FINAL EXAM** (from 9-11am)