

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2016-2017** SCAND 399 B1 [*86826: Madness, Myth and Modernity: Perspectives in  
Scandinavian Literature*]  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. John Eason

Time: TR 2-3.20pm

Office: Arts & Convocation Bldg. 316-B

Place: TBA

Fax: 780-492-9106

Office Hours: M 2-3pm (or by appointment)

E-mail: [easoniii@ualberta.ca](mailto:easoniii@ualberta.ca)

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**Course Prerequisite:** There is no prerequisite for this course.

**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:

In this literature course we will read and discuss some of the most cutting edge, controversial and entertaining novels, plays and short stories from the 19th and 20th centuries by some of the most exciting and groundbreaking modern Scandinavian authors. We will be exploring various ways in which “madness” is depicted in Scandinavian literature and in particular how it manifests differently between the sexes. We will also be uncovering and disproving “myths” of Scandinavian culture and society, as reflected in the works. Finally, we will be looking at how a variety of modern works reflect rapidly transforming Nordic societies during a time of tremendous social and economic change. While many of these works awakened and instilled social change they are all immensely entertaining and all tell stories of emotionally complex characters who captivate the reader and inspire deep discussion. When appropriate, film adaptations of certain works will supplement our study of the text.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- demonstrate a sound knowledge of the history and evolution of Swedish, Danish and Norwegian literature from the Romantic through Modern Periods.
- explain what distinguishes the remarkable heterogeneity of Scandinavian literature and the distinctive cultures that exist within the region, as well as the traits and collaborations common to the region as a whole.
- discuss in detail what distinguishes the great authors and playwrights of Sweden, Denmark and Norway as well as their invaluable contributions to world literature.
- identify and elaborate on certain themes and genres at key moments in Scandinavian cultural history.
- think and look critically at various literary works and differentiate between the printed texts and their film adaptations.

Texts:

All texts will be posted on eClass. Readings are vital to class discussions, written assignments and successful completion of exams and thus should be read by the designated date. A list of texts and films can be found at the end of the syllabus. Texts and films may be added/removed based on how the course develops.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

15%	Attendance/Participation
10%	Short Response Paragraphs
25%	February Midterm – Tuesday, February 28, 2017
25%	Final Research Paper:    -first draft due Thursday, March 30 -final draft due Thursday, April 13
25%	Final Exam – Friday, April 21, 2017 @2pm

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

*Recommended; please consult the following site:*

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

***Explanatory Notes on Assignments and Percentage Breakdown:***

***Attendance/Participation – 15%:***

Attendance: It is absolutely essential that you come to class. If you must miss it is your responsibility to consult with a fellow classmate to find out what you have missed. Absences will reflect in the attendance portion of your grade. Out of respect for your classmates and me please be on time.

Participation: Discussion is integral to this course. Active participation requires not only your physical presence but also that you come to class prepared and ready to contribute. If you're unable to effectively take part in class discussions this portion of your grade will drop. After two absences, your participation grade will drop 5% for every additional absence. Excused absences are not automatic. Thus, in case of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating illness, religious convictions or legitimate University-related business), students may apply for an excused absence for missed classes, term work or exams. Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students”

([https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student\\_services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf](https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student_services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf)).

Please note that a “Statutory Declaration” submitted at the end of term covering multiple absences during the term will not be accepted.

***Response Paragraphs – 10%***

Response paragraphs (at least one substantial paragraph) are to be written directly after the designated reading has been completed for homework and brought to class ready to turn in to me. Response paragraphs will receive a  $\checkmark$ ; those showing exceptional critical and analytical strengths will receive a  $\checkmark+$ . Response paragraphs that show a very limited engagement will receive a  $\checkmark-$ . No late response paragraphs will be accepted.

***Midterm – 25%:***

The midterm will consist of short response and essay questions. If you've done all the reading, attended lectures regularly and are well acquainted with the concepts and arguments dealt with in class and have some examples under your belt to support your arguments you should be in good shape. The midterm will take place Tuesday, February 28, 2017 during regular class time.

***Final Research Paper – 25%:***

For this 8-10-page term paper I am giving you free range to choose your own topic on any of the works read and discussed in class this term. The paper should demonstrate

your knowledge of the material covered in this course. More specifically, it should show that you are able to formulate an argument about a particular topic related to the texts and support that argument with examples from the primary text. The use of secondary texts is encouraged but not required. Secondary texts may consist of articles from books or literary publications, reviews or theoretical works. Approach Internet resources with extreme caution! Run it by me if you are unsure. Two drafts will be required. The first draft will be due Thursday, March 30, and the second and final draft will be due Thursday, April 13. It is recommended that you run your original topic by me first.

The best papers will:

- focus on analysis
- have a unique thesis statement which is both clear and to the point
- use evidence from primary and secondary works (latter of which isn't required) to support your argument
- keep retelling and biographical facts to a minimum
- avoid merely regurgitating analyses from class lectures/discussions

Some suggested approaches you may wish to consider (but are by no means limited to):

- Choose a thematic comparative approach by which you choose a significant theme common to two or more works and then compare and contrast how the theme is used and developed in each respective work.
- Do a film/text comparison. The film need not be limited to those screened in class. Again, avoid merely regurgitating analyses from class lectures/discussions.
- Apply a theory to a work or works that interests you or that you feel is relevant. For the sake of clarity, a brief explanation of your theory should be incorporated.

Formatting guidelines:

- The paper should be 8-10 pages long, double-spaced, Times News Roman, 12 font, standard 1" margins.
- If citing secondary sources include a "Selected Sources" page at the end; please follow guidelines for MLA style and citation (see *The Brief Penguin Handbook, Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson, 2008. Co-authored with Heather Graves and Lester Faigley).

***Final Exam – 25%:***

The final will be written Friday, April 21, 2017 @2pm during the scheduled exam time. The format of the final exam will mirror that of the midterm.

***Cell Phones & Laptops:***

Use of cell phones and laptops IS permitted FOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES ONLY. Such activities include note taking and accessing readings. Surfing, texting, fact checking "googling" or using either as a listening device is forbidden.

***Required Notes:***

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

***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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which 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.”

***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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>

***Academic Honesty:***

**All students** should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the 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

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material 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.

***\*In this course,*** student/instructor communication is important. If a student knows of upcoming absences, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to be able to offer instructions regarding missed material, and/or assistance. Moreover, in this course attendance and participation go hand in hand. When a student is absent, his/her level of participation in class cannot be assessed. The 15% allotted for attendance and class participation is based on effort and active engagement in shown when in attendance. Punctuality is also crucial, so students are asked to be on time. If the student is having trouble with any aspect of the course and/or material, he or she should arrange to meet with the instructor outside of class.

***Policy for Late Assignments/Homework:***

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 **just one time** throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

***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.	A+	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	A-	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+	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	B	3.0	<b>83-86</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.	C+	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	C	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	C-	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.	D+	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	D	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	F	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

The Norwegian service club Sons of Norway *Torskeklubben* will provide bursaries of \$150 to students who have successfully completed a Scandinavian course (including *Madness, Myth and Modernity: Perspectives in Scandinavian Literature*) with a minimum grade of A-.

### ***Texts and films:***

Hans Christian Andersen. “The Emperor’s New Clothes” (1837), “The Ugly Duckling” (1843) and “The Little Mermaid” (1836).

Film: *The Little Mermaid* (1989).

Fredrika Bremer. *The Colonel’s Family* (1831).

August Strindberg. *Miss Julie* (1888).

Film: *Miss Julie* (1951).

Henrik Ibsen. *Hedda Gabler* (1890).

Knut Hamsun. *Hunger* (1890).

Film: *Hunger* (1968).

Amalie Skram. *Under Observation* (1895).

Isak Dinesen. “The Monkey” (1939) and “Babette’s Feast” (1956).

Film: *Babette’s Feast* (1987).

Pär Lagerkvist. *The Dwarf* (1944).

Tarjei Vesaas. *The Ice Palace* (1963).

Film: *The Ice Palace* (1987).

Kerstin Ekman. *Witches’ Rings* (1974).

Knut Faldbakken. *Adam’s Diary* (1978).