

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 SCAND 343 A1: Scandinavia Through Folklore
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Natalie Van Deusen
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Time: T/Th 12:30-1:50
Place: HC 2 38
Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:00,
or by appointment

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:

This course explores Scandinavian folk literature as an expression of the human experience from pre-industrial to contemporary Scandinavia. Readings, lectures, discussion and assignments are designed to develop a comparative understanding of the genres of folktale, secular and religious legend, ballad and jokes as distinct narrative expressions of beliefs, practices and worldviews. In combination, the course's investigation of three types of readings – the folk literature itself, articles presenting literary and cultural analysis, and adaptations of folk narrative in literary tales and drama - encourages a critical approach to the notion of folk literature as representative of the national "folk soul" or evidence of primitive origin. At the same time, the course focuses on the ways in which folk literature plays a role in formation of cultural and national identity, criticism of social and

political hierarchies, and definition of the self and other. Examples of folk performance in music, art and film supplement the course readings. It is expected that each student will be a prepared and engaged contributor to collective and individual learning in the class.

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

- Identify and define major forms of folklore
- Discuss the functions of folklore, especially in terms of identity formation
- Analyze types of folklore (motifs, tales, ballads, beings, etc.), particularly in relation to their representation in Scandinavian tradition
- Examine the relationship between folklore and cultural products (e.g. literature, film, music).
- Answer the question: "Is folklore more like a fossil or a plant?"

Texts:

- *Scandinavian Folk Belief and Legend*, Reimund Kvideland and Henning Sehmsdorf, U. of Minnesota Press, ISBN 980816619670
- *Norwegian Folktales*, Asbjørnsen and Moe, Transl. Pat Shaw, Pantheon Books, ISBN 980394710541
- *Peer Gynt*, Henrik Ibsen, U. of Minnesota Press ISBN 78 0816609123
- Readings on eClass (as noted in daily schedule)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation	20%
Midterm exam (October 19)	25%
Presentation	25%
Final exam (December 15, 2:00pm)	30%

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

February 20, 2:00p. 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:

Participation

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 participation grade is based on the degree to which you:

- Attend class regularly and arrive at class on time;
- Are engaged and focused during lectures, class discussion, and group work;
- Come to each class with one or two questions or points for discussion;
- Demonstrate you have read the material through your contribution of well-informed and reflective 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;

Presentation

Article Report (groups of 2-3). Each group will present one of the scholarly articles noted in the weekly schedule. The presentation of approx. 10 minutes must provide a statement of the article's/chapter's overall focus, salient points that inform our study topic for that week, and an example and/or application of the content to our reading for that day. A handout or power point should contain important quotes and points of the presentation. Each group presentation must include at least two discussion questions for the class as a whole.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm (October 19) and final (December 15) exams are a combination of matching, short answer, and essay questions. A study sheet for both will be distributed in advance.

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 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.”

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](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

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, 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.

In this course attendance and active participation are required.

Out of respect for the instructor and other students wanting to learn, texting and other cell phone use is not allowed in the classroom.

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 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; 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	%
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
	F	0.0	0-59

Failure.			
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Note: *Grades of A+ are very rarely awarded.*