

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

2020-2021 SCAND 343 A1: Scandinavia Through Folklore
(Fall Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Natalie Van Deusen
Office: REMOTE
E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca
Course Website: eClass
TA: Megan Perram

Time: T/Th 12:30p-1:50p
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: T/Th 10:00-11:00 on Zoom,
or by appointment
E-mail: mperram@ualberta.ca

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>

Course Prerequisite: None.

Technology requirements (minimum): This course requires that you have access to the internet and a computer or other device that can run Zoom and eClass and that has a camera and microphone. Please consult the following page to ensure you have the minimum technology specifications recommended by the University:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>.

All small group meetings and presentations will take place via Zoom, and all pre-recorded lectures will be posted through Zoom to eClass. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

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 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, 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).

Course Format:

The course will be a mixture of asynchronous and synchronous learning, and will take place both on Zoom and on eClass. Each week, a series of 15-minute "mini lectures" will be posted to eClass by the instructor; these will be supplemented by guest lectures and group presentations (live on Zoom and pre-recorded). Students will engage with lectures and course materials on the weekly forum. There will also be scheduled small group discussion meetings on Zoom beginning in Week 3.

Remote Expectations and Important Information

- I expect you to complete all readings and tasks by the end of each class day and by the end of the semester. You are responsible for staying up to date with course readings, assignments, and expectations.
- All communication and class announcements will occur via the "announcement" section on eClass, for which you receive e-mail alerts. All other communication between me and individual students will always occur via e-mail.

- You are responsible for having the appropriate technology and network connection to allow you to check eClass and your e-mail daily. All assignments, forums, links, etc. are posted there, as are updates, news, course work, and expectations. This is vital to your successful completion of this course online.
- 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 blank screen ☺).
- I can easily set up online Zoom meeting if needed. If you ever need to speak to me directly for any reason, don't hesitate to email me and make a meeting appointment to do this. **Office hours are never in person.**
- Accommodations: If you require any accommodations or have any concerns about your progress in the course, please communicate with me through email or request a Zoom meeting.

Required Texts:

- *Inari Sami Folklore*, August V. Koskimies, Toivo I Itkonen, Lea Laitinen, and Tim Frandy, University of Wisconsin-Madison Press
- *Norwegian Folktales*, Asbjørnsen and Moe, Transl. Pat Shaw, Pantheon Books
- *Scandinavian Folk Belief and Legend*, Reimund Kvideland and Henning Sehmsdorf, University of Minnesota Press
- *Frozen II* (any format)
- Readings on eClass (as noted in daily schedule)

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

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

Participation	10%
Forum posts	10%
Midterm paper (October 15)	25%

Presentation	25%
Final paper (December 3)	30%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation

The course utilizes a combination of pre-recorded (asynchronous) lectures on eClass and live (synchronous) small group discussions on Zoom, and requires your presence and active participation. It is expected that you will watch all of the lectures and participate every week in a small group meeting, during which time you will demonstrate that you have read the material and given careful thought to the readings. Each individual contribution in these small group meetings is important to learning in the class. Sign-up times for the small group meetings will be posted at the beginning of each week.

Forum posts

Every week, I will post discussion questions on eClass to which you are expected to compose a response. Your response (a half page to one page in length--that is, approximately 250-500 words--once a week) should be posted to our class discussion board during **either** our Tuesday or Thursday class meeting (at the very latest by the end of the day).

To locate the topics for the discussion board on our eClass webpage, log on to eClass and scroll to the current week; click on "Week _____, [Tuesday/Thursday] Forum" (e.g. "Week 2, Thursday Forum"), then click on "Add a new discussion topic" and post your response. When you are finished, click "Post to forum."

A good weekly response will do the following:

- mention at least one specific passage from the week's reading that you would like to discuss in class
- critically analyze the passage (your comment should not just summarize its content or make vague noises about its "importance")
- relate the week's reading to other readings or discussions in the course
- be made in a timely fashion
- be grammatically correct and proofread

In addition to your once-weekly forum post, you are required to respond to someone else's forum post once per week. The responses need not be more than several sentences, but should demonstrate that you have read your classmate's posts and have thought critically about them.

To respond to a post, follow the above instructions for locating the discussion forum on eClass. Read through your classmates' posts, and choose one to respond to. Click "Reply" on the lower right section under the post, then write your reply and press "Submit."

Forum posts and responses are graded together on a scale of 0-5 points. To receive all 5 points, your response will have sufficiently met all of the above criteria, and you will also have posted a good response to a classmate's post (according to the criteria outlined in the previous paragraph). Our class discussion will be guided by your postings, so please write on something that interests you and that will (hopefully) also interest the rest of us.

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. 10-15 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.

Midterm and Final Papers

The midterm (October 15) and final (December 3) papers will consist of several short essay prompts. Details will be provided at least two weeks prior to the due dates.

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 work and study 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 active participation (demonstrated by attendance to small group discussion meetings and regular forum posts and responses) are required.

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.

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

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