

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2015-2016 SCAND 399 B2: Scandinavian Children's Literature  
(Winter Term)**

Time: TR 12:30pm-1:50pm

Place: CAB 235

Instructor: Dr Natalie Van Deusen

E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca

Office: Arts 316-D

Office Hours: TR 10:00am-11:00am or by appt.

Telephone: (no office phones)

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**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/exams>

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 offers the opportunity to study the narrative and pictorial tradition of Scandinavian children's literature from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The stories and picture books will be discussed in their historical, pedagogical, and social contexts, from the pre-WWII focus on moral and religious themes to the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries' focus on the child as an individual needing to adapt to an increasingly diverse and multicultural society. The emphasis of the course will be on analysis and interpretation of texts and pictures in their esthetic, political and social contexts. Recent picture books will be analyzed in terms of their pictorial-narrative techniques, themes, and how they reflect the

child's position in society with regard to ethnicity, gender, and power constellations.

By the end of the course, students will be able to

1. understand and discuss the structures and changing conventions of children's literature in Scandinavia in their historical, pedagogical and social contexts.
2. approach children's literature with a critical/analytical eye towards environmental, gender, ethnicity and power issues.
3. demonstrate skills in interpreting, writing about, and presenting children's literature.

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

- *The Kalevala*.
- Hans Christian Andersen. *The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories*.
- Selma Lagerlöf. *The Wonderful Travels of Nils*
- Astrid Lindgren. *Pippi Longstocking*.
- Astrid Lindgren. *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*.
- Tove Jansson. *Tales from the Moomin Valley*.
- Maria Gripe. *The Glassblower's Children*.
- Additional readings on eClass (as noted in daily schedule)

**Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

Participation	15%
Responses on eClass (2)	15%
Midterm exam (Feb. 24)	20%
Group project	20%
Take-home final exam (due April 22)	30%

**Date of Deferred Final Exam:** N/A

**Explanatory notes on Assignments:**

**Participation and in-class assignments**

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, group work and class discussion;
- 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: More than **two** absences during the semester for other than emergencies will

result in a reduction in your final grade by a half letter grade for each additional absence above two.

### **Group Project**

Writing/producing a short children's story (either an original story or reworking a traditional fable or fairytale) making use of the narrative techniques and themes discussed in class.

### **Take-home Final Exam**

Two 1000-word reflection essays (with prompts), due on or before 5:00p on April 22 on eClass. The focus will be the treatment of a single issue (e.g. childhood, eco-criticism, individualism) in multiple works.

### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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.

**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 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. 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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 participation are required, and will be monitored by a daily attendance sheet.

**Out of respect for the instructor and other students wanting to learn, texting and other cell phone use, as well as the use of laptops for purposes other than note-taking, are 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. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in with a 2%-per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

***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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact

their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.sds.ualberta.ca](http://www.sds.ualberta.ca)).

**Grading:**

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Excellent:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Good</b>
B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Poor:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Failure:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

**Note:** Bursaries of \$150.00 will be provided by the Norwegian service club *Sons of Norway-Torskeklubben* to students who have successfully completed a Scandinavian course (incl. SCAND 399) with a minimum grade of B-.

## 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 to you either in class or by e-mail, and will be updated on eClass. You are responsible to know this schedule well, and refer to it often.

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#### Week 1

**Jan 5**

Course Introduction; History: Locke, Rousseau; Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm;  
Early Fables, Moral Examples, and Legends, Urban Legends

**Jan 7**

NO CLASS (instructor at MLA conference).  
Write a two-page (500-word) response paper about your favourite children's book, submit to eClass.

#### Week 2

**Jan 12**

Folk and Fairy Tales: characters, plots, functions  
Norwegian stories and tales  
Icelandic stories and tales  
(Read selection on eClass)  
Group analysis/discussions

**Jan 14**

Swedish stories and tales  
Danish stories and tales  
(Read selection on eClass)  
Group analysis/discussions

#### Week 3

**Jan 19**

The Authored Tale: H.C. Andersen  
Read: "The Traveling Companion," "The Wild Swans," "Clod Hans,"  
"What Father Does is Always Right," "Little Claus and Big Claus."  
Group analysis/discussions

**Jan 21**

The Authored Tale: H.C. Andersen  
Read: "The Princess on the Pea," "The Little Mermaid," "The Emperor's New Clothes," "The Nightingale," "The Ugly Duckling," "The Snow Queen."  
Group analysis and discussion

**Week 4**

**Jan 26**

View Disney version of *The Little Mermaid* (in class), and write two-page (500-word) analysis on eClass, due January 28.

**Jan 28**

The Finnish Oral Tradition: *Kalevala*

**Week 5**

**Feb 2**

Selma Lagerlöf: *The Wonderful Travels of Nils*;  
Eco-criticism; what does it mean to be a human being?  
Group discussion

**Feb 4**

Lagerlöf, *The Wonderful Travels of Nils*, continued

**Week 6**

**Feb 9**

Lagerlöf, *The Wonderful Travels of Nils*, continued

**Feb 11**

Childhood Memoirs in Iceland: Sigurbjörn Sveinsson and Jón Sveinsson (eClass); Icelandic Picture Books: *The Story of Dimmalimm* (eClass);  
Midterm Review

**Week 7**

**Feb 16 & 18**

READING WEEK—NO CLASS

**Week 8**

**Feb 24**

Midterm Exam

**Feb 26**

Post-WWII Children's Literature: The child as individual  
Astrid Lindgren and *Pippi Longstocking*

**Week 9**

**March 1**

Lindgren, *Pippi Longstocking*, continued

**March 3**

*Pippi Longstocking* film

**Week 10**

**March 8**

Astrid Lindgren: *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*  
INTRO TO GROUP PROJECTS

**March 10**

Lindgren: *Ronia*, continued

**Week 11**

**March 15**

Maria Gripe: *The Glassblower's Children*; critique of commercialism in children's culture and adult self-absorption

**March 17**

Gripe: *The Glassblower's Children*, continued

**Week 12**

**March 22**

Tove Jansson: *Tales from the Moomin Valley*:  
"The Filliyonk Who Believed in Disasters," "The Last Dragon in the World," "The Hemulen Who Loved Silence," "The Invisible Child," "Cedric," "The Fir tree."

**March 24**

Tove Jansson: *Who Will Comfort Toffle? A Tale of Moomin Valley*

**Week 13**

**March 29**

*Tales from Moomin Valley*, TV episodes

**March 31**

Presentations of Group Projects

**Week 14**

**April 5**

Presentations of Group Projects

**April 7**

Presentations of Group Projects

**TAKE-HOME FINAL (two 1000-word reflection essays, with prompts) due on or before 5:00p on April 22 on eClass**