

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2018-2019 SCAND 399

[93710, B1: Madness, Myth and Modernity]

(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. John Francis Eason III
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Time: TR 2-3:20
Place: T B 60
Office Hour: M: 2-3pm or by appointment

Course Prerequisite:

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the 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 entertaining and 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:

The majority of the texts used in this course will be available at the University of Alberta Bookstore. Some texts, shorter ones in particular, 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.

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).

Karin Boye. *Kallocain* (1940).

Pär Lagerkvist. *The Dwarf* (1944).

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

Film: *The Ice Palace* (1987).

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

Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):

Class Attendance/Participation	15%	
February Midterm	30%	Tues., February 26, 2019
Book Review	25%	Due Thurs., April 11, 2019
April Final	30%	Tues., April 23, 2019 @ 2pm

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

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

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

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

General:

Announcements about readings and other assignments will be made both in class and on eClass. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check eClass for the assignment. Preparedness is your responsibility, so please be prepared.

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:

Midterm – 30%:

The midterm will cover all material taken up from day one of the course and will count as 30% of the final course grade. The format will consist of short responses and essay questions. The midterm will take place Tues., February 26, 2019 during regular class time. If for whatever reason this date changes, you will be notified well in advance.

Book Review – 25%:

You will write a 900-1500-word book review of a Scandinavian work by one of the authors dealt with in course though not the same book as the one we are reading. A set of guidelines will be posted on eClass. The book review will be due Thurs., April 11, 2019. Electronic copies are permissible.

Final – 30%:

The final will be written Tues., April 23, 2019 @ 2pm. The format of the final exam will mirror that of the midterm.

Cell phones, laptops, tablets:

As some of the materials you will be working with will be available in electronic form, cell phones, laptops, and tablets will be permitted for classroom activities only. Any other type of use is highly discouraged. If I feel you are abusing this policy, I will give you one email warning. If the behaviour persists it will reflect in your participation mark at the end of the course.

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 (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.

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](#).

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*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

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 above more than **three** absences during the semester will result in a reduction of your final participation mark by one letter grade for each additional absence above three. Please note, this does not mean you may miss more classes with a note, a valid excuse, etc.

Also, as mentioned above, note that film screenings are required. If you fail to attend a film screening you will be counted absent. Out of respect for the instructor and other students, texting and other cell phone use, as well as the use of laptops for purposes other than notetaking, are not allowed in the classroom. If I feel you are abusing this policy, I will give you one email warning. If the behaviour persists it will reflect in your participation mark at the end of the course.

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	%
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

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:

CLASS LEVEL	RANGE FOR CLASS AVERAGE
100	2.48 - 3.08
200	2.63 - 3.23
300	2.72 - 3.32
400**	2.98 - 3.58

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