

Scandinavian Film Genres

Course content

From a national and international perspective, contemporary Scandinavian cinema is doing very well. At home, Scandinavian films have a share of the national markets that is above European average, domestic audiences show interest in Scandinavian productions, and films are an active part in debates concerning cultural and identity politics. Internationally, Scandinavian films have received critical appraisal, and Scandinavian countries manage to successfully compete with global Hollywood.

This course will investigate contemporary Scandinavian cinema with a focus on how Scandinavian national cinemas respond to global Hollywood by reworking genre conventions not only to make themselves a niche on global audiovisual markets, but also to impact the ways in which the Scandinavians themselves construct and imagine the complex worlds in which they live. The film genres examined include melodramas, hybrids of fiction and documentary, horror films, vampire films, migrant and Sami films, and examples encompass all the Scandinavian countries

Learning outcome

The course provides students with basic terms and concepts for studying and analyzing film in a political, social and cultural context. Film genre is a major concept under investigation in this course. After completing the course, students will gain insights into the relationship between genre, aesthetics and ideology in film, as well as the ability to conduct a close analysis of moving images in order to critically assess what films do. In addition to contextualizing and theorizing film, students will be able to contrast and compare various film genres and their respective aesthetics and embedded ideologies.

Formal prerequisite knowledge

No obligatory prerequisites beyond the minimum requirements for entrance to higher education in Norway.

Teaching

The course consists of 26 lectures, 3 hours daily (010:15-13:00), Monday to Friday, for six weeks. The classroom sessions include lectures and group discussions, often based on comparative analysis of the films and topics concerned. In addition, the course will arrange a visit at the Norwegian Film Institute.

Daily attendance is expected of all participants. Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam.

Examination

Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam. The final exam is divided into two parts:

Take home examination: 60% The take home examination is an 8-page long argumentative essay excluding the bibliography (approximately 2300 characters per page). The question for the take-home exam will be handed out in week 6 of classes and students have three days to complete their essays.

Oral presentation: 40% Students will be asked to give a group presentation on a topic related to the syllabus followed by a class discussion which they will coordinate.

Gender Equality in the Nordic Countries

Course content

This course gives an introduction to, and an overview of, issues of gender equality in a Nordic context. Deeper insights will be gained into how the concept and implementation of gender equality has developed and been practiced in the Nordic countries since 1900. The main focus is on the period after the 1970s. Themes in the course relate gender equality to representation in positions of power, work and money, family life, education and ethnic relations. Processes and agents contributing to current problems will also be discussed.

This is a joint graduate/undergraduate course. Graduate students have additional readings, lectures on theoretical perspectives while undergraduate students work on assignments.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

You will acquire:

- basic knowledge of the Nordic context
- knowledge of concepts used in analysing gender equality issues
- knowledge of different conceptions of gender equality
- knowledge of challenges and outcomes of gender equality in specific fields

Skills

You will be able to:

- analyse gender equality issues and to place them in societal and cultural contexts
- discuss historical processes of gender equality measures in the Nordic region
- discuss the status of gender equality in fields such as everyday life, education, working life, politics and ethnic relations
- work in an independent, thorough and critical manner with central issues, research literature and empirical studies
- understand the need to follow ethical norms.

Competencies

After completing the course you have:

- acquired insight into gender equality issues and processes in general, which can be used to analyse specific gender equality problems
- the ability to see, analyse and problematize gender in texts, practices and policies

Prerequisites

Formal prerequisite knowledge

No obligatory prerequisites beyond the minimum requirements for entrance to higher education in Norway. [Minimum academic requirements.](#)

Teaching

The course consists of 24 lectures, 3 hours daily (10:15-13:00), Monday to Friday, for six weeks. Classroom sessions include lectures and group discussions, often based on comparative analysis. Field trips to institutions in Oslo are included.

Daily attendance is expected of all participants. Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam.

Examination

The course is graded on the basis of a final take-home exam.

In order to take the exam, students must have completed the following requirements:

- The mandatory participation requirement (75%).
- Two mandatory oral presentations on a topic decided by the teacher. Written versions of both presentations must be submitted on Fronter before the presentations are given in class.
- One "DRIE" group exercise. DRIE stands for Describe, React, Interpret and Evaluate. The exercise is organised by the teacher. The DRIE exercise shall be presented as a written document of 4 pages if there are no pictures and 8 if there are pictures and presented at the seminar.
- The two presentations and the DRIE exercise should be approved before taking the exam.

The exam will consist of: A 3-day take-home exam on a given topic. The exam must have a length of 8 pages, (2300 characters per page (not counting spaces) [references](#) in addition).

You can check your results and order transcripts in Studentweb three weeks after the exam.

The Norwegian Welfare State

Course content

This course presents the historical background, development and the present day challenges of the Norwegian welfare state. It examines how the Norwegian value system and culture has shaped and continues to shape the welfare state, and discusses how political debates and the country's welfare programs are being challenged and remoulded by changes in immigration, gender roles and employment. The course pays special attention to the case of the Nordic model of work-family balance, as this is one of the distinctive features of the Norwegian welfare state, and contributes to high employment and high fertility in Scandinavia. At the end of the course students will be able to discuss the foundations of the welfare state, as well as compare different welfare regimes and challenges.

The course puts emphasis on classroom discussion and student participation with the aim of enabling the students to make a comparative analysis of social structures and institutions in their own and other countries.

Learning outcome

To give students insight into the historical background, the development and the present-day challenges of the Norwegian welfare state, and on this basis enable them to make a comparative analysis of the social structure and institutions in their own and other countries.

Prerequisites

Formal prerequisite knowledge

No obligatory prerequisites beyond the minimum requirements for entrance to higher education in Norway. [Minimum academic requirements.](#)

Teaching

The course consists of 26 lectures, 3 hours daily (10:15-13:00), Monday to Friday, for six weeks. Classroom sessions include lectures and group discussions, based on comparative analysis. All students are required to give an oral presentation on a given topic to the class. Active student participation is expected. Field trips to institutions in Oslo are included.

Daily attendance is expected of all participants. Students must attend 75% of the lectures and give an oral presentation in order to take the final exam.

Examination

The course includes a final exam, which lasts for 3 hours. Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam.

Scandinavian Government & Politics

Course content

The course critically analyzes the Norwegian and Scandinavian political systems in a comparative perspective. Topics covered include: nation-building and nationalism in Norway; the development of Norwegian democracy and the Scandinavian political party system; the Scandinavian model of the welfare state; globalization and European integration in a Norwegian context; multicultural theory; and the challenges and opportunities of increased cultural and ethnic diversity in Norway and Scandinavia.

Learning outcome

To give students a basic understanding of the structure of the Norwegian and Scandinavian political system, the institutions and some of today's challenges. Students are expected to develop the framework necessary for critical reflection and comparative analysis of political systems.

Prerequisites

Formal prerequisite knowledge

No obligatory prerequisites beyond the minimum requirements for entrance to higher education in Norway. [Minimum academic requirements.](#)

Teaching

The course consists of 26 lectures, 2 hours daily (08:15-10:00), Monday to Friday, for six weeks. Classroom sessions include lectures, student presentations, group exercises and discussions. Visits to the Norwegian Parliament and other organizations important to Norwegian political life are included.

Daily attendance is expected of all participants. Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam.

Examination

The course includes a final written examination, which lasts for two hours. Students must attend 75% of the lectures in order to take the final exam.

Language of examination

The examination text is given in English, and you submit your response in English.