COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Scandinavian Identity – as seen in film and literature Skandinaviškoji tapatybė – per kino ir literatūros prizmę	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: lect. Kristian Nikolaj Rasmussen **Other:** lect. Gun-Marie Larsson	Faculty of Philology Centre for Scandinavian Studies

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Contact work (in class) independent work	Spring semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: English B2	**Co-requisites (if relevant):** None

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit		
To deepen and expand the knowledge about how a Scandinavian identity has been formed through history as seen in texts and films. This will give the students an understanding of how it is to be Danish or Swedish. It is our hope that students of the course will find inspiration in the course material and that they will seek out Scandinavian film and literature on their own after the course has finished.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
To be able to understand and reproduce analyses of Scandinavian identity as given in texts and film throughout the course in a final written exam.	The students will gain an understanding of Scandinavian identity through the analysis of extracts of Scandinavian literature and film	A third of the final grade will be given based on an evaluation of the final written exam paper.
To be able to participate in class discussions	The teaching will be built up around class discussions	A third of the final grade will be given based on active participation
To create a commercial representing Scandinavia	The students will show their summed up knowledge of Scandinavian identity by creating a commercial	A third of the final grade will be given based on the evaluation of the commercial

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	**Contact hours, total**	**Individual work**	**Tasks for individual work**
1. Introduction to the course and the teachers			2				**2**	**8**	Reading, Discussions
2. The history of the shared Danish and Swedish identity – from Rune stones to modern stories. Literary example: The Icelandic sagas.			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
3. Scandinavian identity expressed through language. Danish-Swedish co-productions in film and Television			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
4. Scandinavian identity as expressed in literature and music by working-class writers – are all Scandinavians equal?			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
5. Scandinavian identity as expressed in social-realistic films – are all Scandinavians equal?			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
6. Scandinavian identity as expressed in literature about gender identity			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
7. Scandinavian identity as expressed in film about gender identity			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
8. Scandinavian identity as expressed in minority literature			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
9. The Danish film movement Dogme-95. Riget / The Kingdom			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
10. Cultural norms and traditions in Scandinavia. Music			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
11. Guest lecturer Ida-Sophie Barkerud Talks about Sami culture in Scandinavia			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
12. Scandinavian Identity expressed in politics + Borgen			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
13. Scandinavian identity in autofiction			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions

14. Visit to the Swedish Embassy – what picture of Sweden is the Embassy trying to promote?			2				**2**	**6**	Reading, Discussions
15. Students will create a commercial presenting Denmark or Sweden			2				**2**	**6**	Presentation, Discussions
16. Viewing of the films and discussions. Conclusion of the course. "Fika" and evaluation			2				**2**	**6**	Discussions, Film screening
Total			**32**				**32**	**98**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active participation	1/3		A 1/3 of the grade is based on active participation in class discussion and reading of the assigned homework. To pass the class a minimum of 12/16 classes must be attended. Each student must also do a presentation.
Written exam	1/3		A 1/3 of the grade is based on the students' ability to summarize the discussions we had in class in a written exam without access to the internet
Commercial	1/3		A 1/3 of the grade is based on the teacher's assessment of the commercial. A set of criteria will be given to the students.
AI may be used for additional explanations, practice examples, and task ideas, but must not replace students' own grammatical analysis, critical thinking, or creativity. Use of AI during tests is prohibited. Any use of AI in submitted work must be acknowledged. Students are responsible for checking AI-generated content and ensuring ethical use in accordance with the Faculty of Philology's recommendations and VU regulation.			

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Annika Lindskog and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen	2020	Introduction to Nordic Cultures		UCL Press
Måns Mårlind Hans Rosenfeldt Björn Stein	2011	Broen (film)		
Lars Von Trier	1994	Riget / The Kingdom		
Glenn Bech	2022	I No Longer Recognise Your Authority		
Yahya Hassan	2013	Yahya Hassan		
Jonas Hassen Khemiri	2006	Montecore - The Silence of the Tiger		
Moa Backe Åstot	2021	Polar Fire		
Karl Ove Knausgård	2013	My Struggle		
Adam Price	2010	Borgen		
William Morris & Eirikr Magnusson	1901	The Saga of Gunnlaug the Worm-Tongue and Rafn the Skald		
Recommended reading				

Last updated: 20-11-2026