COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Scandinavian crime fiction in context / Skandinavų detektyvai ir jų kontekstai	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Rima Rudienė, teacher practitioner **Other:**	Faculty of Philology, Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic, Centre for Scandinavian Studies

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Elective

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

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

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	150	40	110

Purpose of the course unit		
The aim of this course is to develop students' analytical and critical thinking, to provide knowledge about trends in contemporary Scandinavian literature, the crime fiction genre, and its political and ideological context. Students will get an ooportunity to independently conduct a small-scale literary study, apply the knowledge acquired in the course, and demonstrate their analytical skills through literary analysis.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
The student will become familiar with the historical, political and cultural context of Scandinavia.	Overview lectures on the cultural climate and political situation in the Scandinavian countries; Targeted readings introducing core concepts; Terminology exercises during discussions.	Seminar discussions where the terminology has be to used to analyse practical examples; Analytical reflections on different cultural aspects / theoretical concepts.
The student will become familiar with the genre of Scandinavian crime fiction, the most prominent Scandinavian writers of this genre, and their works.	Analytical group work in order to share the understanding of the key concepts; Guided clarification of the key terms.	Group presentations; Reflection on your own and others presentations.
The student will be able to identify thematic, genre and ideological similarities/differences in a selected sample of literary works.	Case-study seminars; Targeted reading introducing the common interpretation of the works.	Written reflection and naratological analysis of a chosen narratological pattern.
The student will be able to independently analyze a text, interpret	Reading examples of literary scolar articles;	Written feedback assessing argument clarity, depth and

it within the framework of a chosen perspective, and identify other possible directions of analysis.	Individual work assignment.	theoretical grounding.

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. Scandinavian cultural context.	2						**2**	**2**	Read the course description. Reflect on what you know about crime fiction in general.
2. Origins and canon of the genre (classic detective story, thriller, crime novel, *femikrimi*). Typology and structure of the crime novel.	2						**2**	**2**	Read the relevant chapters from *A Companion To Crime Fiction.*
2. Aksel Sandemose and *Janteloven*. His novel *Det svundne er en drøm*.	2						**2**	**4**	Read the excerpt from the novel. Prepare for the discussion.
3. History of Danish colonialism. The case of Greenland. Peter Høeg *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*	2		2				**4**	**16**	Read the novel. Prepare for the discussion
4. Scandinacian political context. The Scandinavian Welfare State model. Olof Palme. *Assignment 1: article presentation*			2				**2**	**6**	Read the articles and relevant chapters on Scandinavian Welfare State. Prepare for the discussion in the class.
5. Swedish crime novel. Henning Mankell and his Knut Wallander series.	2		2				**4**	**16**	Read the chapter on the topic from *Scandinavian crime fiction* by Arvas and Nestingen. Read the novel. Prepare for the discussion.
6. Politics in crime fiction. Social critique and the esthetics.	2						**2**	**4**	Read the article on *Politics in Literature* by Jacques Rancière
7. Stieg Larsson and his Millennium series.	2		2				**4**	**16**	Read the chapter on the topic from *Scandinavian crime fiction* by Arvas and Nestingen. Read the novel. Prepare for the discussion.
8. Workshop on translating crime			2				**2**	**4**	Reflect on your

fiction. Lithuanian case studies.									experience in reading literature in translation. Read the Introduction from *The translator's invisibility: a history of translation*.
9. The phenomenon of Jo Nesbø. Harry Hole series. *Blood on Snow* and *Midnight Sun*.	2		2				**4**	**12**	Read the chapter on the topic from *Scandinavian crime fiction* by Arvas and Nestingen. Read one of the novels. Prepare for the discussion.
10. Johan Harstad *The Red Handler*. Narrative Templates. The core concepts of Narrative Analysis. *Assignment 2: narratological analysis in group*	2		2				**4**	**10**	Read the article on Narratology. Choose the story from the book. Prepare for the group work in the class.
11. Individual/group presentations. *Assignment 3: presentations on different novels*			6				**6**	**16**	Prepare for the presentation.
12. Final discussion on Scandinavian culture and society and Scandinacian crime fiction. Individual consultations if needed.			2					**2**	Prepare individual questions.
Total	**16**		**24**				**40**	**110**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active participation in lectures and seminars	20	During the semester	Attendance, work in the seminars.
Group work (report on a chosen novel). Individual work may also be possible.	20	During the semester	Is the topic adequately presented, is the appropriate problematic question raised, are the elements suitable for analysis discussed, their selection, and evaluation. Discussion questions should be prepared and discussion moderated.
Writing a story based on a certain narratological pattern / article presentation.	20	During the semester	Understanding the narratological pattern. Correct use of terminology. Presentation of a scholar article: does the student show understanding of the main points in the article, is he/she able to provide a detailed and an accurate presentation on the topic.
Independent written assignment	40	Exam session	It is assessed whether the completed independent work chooses a relevant theoretical perspective, reflects the skills and knowledge acquired during the course. The length of the paper is 4-5 pages.
Final grade is the sum of the four grades given for the four assignments above. All assignments have to be submitted in order to get the final grade. Attendance is obligatory. Use of AI tools. Generative AI may be used to create images, provided its use is declared under the picture. Other uses of generative AI, such as generating ideas or text that is expected to be written by the student, are prohibited and will result in a failing grade.			

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Peter Høeg	1996	Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow		Vintage Publishing
Henning Mankell	2000	Faceless Killers		Vintage Publishing
Stieg Larsson	2010	The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire & The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets Nest		MacLehose Press
Jo Nesbø	2016	Blood on Snow, Midnight sun		Vintage Publishing
Johan Harstad	2023	The Red Handler		Open Letter
Barry Forshaw	2012	Death in a cold climate: a guide to Scandinavian crime fiction		Palgrave Macmillan
Paula Arvas, Andrew Nestingen	2011	Scandinavian crime fiction		University of Wales Press
Ian MacDougall	2010	The Man Who Blew Up The Welfare State		n+1
Recommended reading				
Gøsta Esping-Andersen	2017	Politics against markets: the social democratic road to power		Princeton University Press
Christiansen, N. F. Petersen, K. Edling, N. Haave, P. (red.)	2006	The Nordic Model of Welfare: a historical reappraisal		Museum Tusculanum Press
Gøsta Esping-Andersen	1990	Ch. 1: The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State, The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism		Polity Press
Rancière, Jacques	2011	The Politics of Literature		Polity Press
Lawrence Venuti	2018	The translator’s invisibility: a history of translation		Taylor and Francis
Todorov, Tzvetan.	1977	"The Typology of Detective Fiction", in: *The Poetics of Prose,* pp. 42-52**.**		Cornell University Press
Madsen,	1994	"Recent Trends in		St. Martin’s Press

Deborah		Genre Theory", in *Rereading Allegory,* pp. 7-27		
Rzepka, Charles J. , Horsley, Lee (eds.)	2010	A Companion To Crime Fiction		Wiley-Blackwell
Hans H. Skei	2008	Blodig alvor: om kriminallitteraturen		Aschehoug
Eva Lambertsson Björk, Karen Patrick Knutsen, Elin Nesje Vestli (red.)	2003	Modi operandi: perspektiver på kriminallitteratur		Høgskolen i Østfold
Aksel Sandemose	2021 2006	Det svundne er en drøm Kas pranykę – sapnas		Nasjonalbiblioteket Lietuvos rašytojų sąjungos leidykla

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