

**Scand. 503**  
**Methods of Scandinavian Study**  
Autumn 2005  
<http://faculty.washington.edu/akn/scand503.htm>

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**Course Information**

5 Credits  
T.,Th. 1:30-3:20  
Raitt 314  
Office Hours:   Tue. 3:30- 4:30  
                      Wed. 3:30-4:30

**Instructor**

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**1. Course Description**

Academic disciplines are comprised by their specialties; disciplines enfold many scholarly similarities and differences within a department. For example, while scholars in a literature department may share many assumptions, a scholar may ask much different research questions in studying an 18<sup>th</sup>-century author like Holberg than a scholar studying gender in modernist literature does. As a result, the scholars use different methods and make divergent arguments. In Scandinavian studies, specialties may be even more distantly related, since the department combines a variety of disciplines within its rubric—folklore, history, literary studies, philology, and political science, to name some of the disciplines of scholars in the department. What similarities hold this diverse discipline together? What distinguishes the various components of Scandinavian Studies? How do these correspond to Scandinavia itself?

To answer these questions, we'll endeavor to map out Scandinavian Studies on two levels, developing a conception of similarities and differences within the field. First, we will read widely and discuss what scholars of Scandinavian studies do. Second, we will engage in disciplinary self-reflection, seeking to develop an account about Scandinavian studies which explains some of the assumptions that drive our research. Shuttling between these levels, we will construct a picture of the field that gives a sense what we do, and have done, and why we do it. In doing this, the course also aims to help you position yourself in the field, and begin to develop a research question, bibliography, and program.

Discussion and presentation will comprise each course meeting. More than half of our meetings will be devoted to introducing you to the work of faculty in the department. They have given an article of their own, or one they feel is important to their field of research, which we will read and discuss with them. The other half of the meetings will be devoted to developing your research through discussion and presentation. If you already have a clear idea of what interests you, this is a chance deepen your command of your topic. If you do not yet have a clear idea of your scholarly interests, this is a chance to identify a topic on which you can focus your scholarly energy. Course discussion and presentation will be aimed at providing a forum for you to do this through critical dialogue with each other and with visitors to the seminar.

## **2. Course Goals**

1. Students will develop a basic familiarity with the scholarship that has predominated in Scandinavian studies during the last ten years, as well as more generally during the postwar period, by reading widely in articles published by scholars in the department, and by reading in journals in the field, primarily *Edda*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Scandinavica*.
2. Students will devise a scholarly project that includes an annotated bibliography and a final project of their own conceptualization. Final projects might include:
  - Essay surveying scholarly literature on topic of interest
  - Statement of research question
  - Survey of T.A. These or Ph.D. dissertations written in the department
  - Academic conference paper

## **3. Course Requirements and Grading**

1. Participation: In-class and On course blog  
(<http://andrewnestingen.typepad.com/scand503>) (10 %)
2. Statement of Interest Presentation (10 %)
3. Annotated bibliography and presentation (6-10 articles) (30%)
4. Final Project (50%)

## **4. Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

TH.	9/29	Course Overview Introductions What is Scandinavian Studies?
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### **Week 2**

T.	10/4	Student Presentations: What are You Interested In? Presentation should be supported by a brief statement of interest
TH.	10/6	Discuss: Hjort, <i>Small Nation, Global Cinema</i> (Minnesota, 2005)

### **Week 3**

T.	10/11	Guest Lecturer and Discussion: Mette Hjort, <i>Small Nation, Global Cinema</i>
TH.	10/13	Guntis Smidchens “Folklorisms Revisited” (Smidchens); “Who are the Folk?” (Dundes)

**Th. 10/12 Mette Hjort Talk in COM 206, 3:30 PM**

**Week 4**

T.	10/18	Patricia L. Conroy: “ <i>Sandoyarbok: A Faroese Ballad Collection, Its Collector and the Community</i> ”; Saga reading, TBA.
TH.	10/20	Period 1: Discussion <i>Pathfinder</i> (Gaup, 1987), <i>Pusher</i> (Refn, 1996), <i>Festen</i> (Vinterberg, 1998), <i>Jalla! Jalla!</i> (Fares, 2000), <i>101 Reykjavik</i> (Koramakur, 2001), <i>Man Without a Past</i> (Kaurismäki, 2002)  Period 2: Ia DüBois, Reading TBA

**Week 5**

T.	10/25	Jan H.K. Nielsen: “‘Små brud af øjeigangsættene’—F.P. Jacs poetiske sprog: En Jacstilistik”; “Inger Christensen (Biographical Essay); and “Post-Petrarchism in Inger Christensen’s Sonnet Sequence: <i>Sommerfugledalen—et requiem.</i> ”
TH.	10/27	Christine Ingebritsen “Norm Entrepreneurs: Scandinavia’s Role in World Politics”

**Week 6**

T.	11/1	Jan Sjøvik: “Intersubjective Literary Interpretation”; Donald Davidson, “Subjective, Intersubjective, Objective”
TH.	11/3	Jan Sjøvik: “The Striking Rhetoric of Knut Faldbakken, “Bryllupsrejsen” Colloquium Presentation, Raitt 314

**Week 7**

T.	11/8	Student Presentations: Annotated Bibliography
TH.	11/10	Student Presentations: Annotated Bibliography

**Week 8**

T.	11/15	Lotta Gavel Adams, “Strindberg, Vetenskap, Manlighet”
TH.	11/17	Marianne Stecher-Hansen: “Danish Writers from the Reformation to Decadence, 1550-1900”

**Marilyn Johns Blackwell Lecture on Ingmar Bergman, 3:30 PM, Location TBA**

**Week 9**

T.	11/22	Andy Nestingen: <i>Transnational Cinema in a Global North</i> Read Introduction and Chapters 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12
TH.	11/24	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday</b>

**Week 10**

T.	11/29	Terje Leiren, "Scandinavian Studies, 2005" Reading: Robert Kvavik, "A Perspective on Scandinavian Studies in the United States." <i>Scandinavian Studies</i> , Vol. 54, No. 1 (1982): 1-20.
TH.	12/1	Final Project Presentations

**Week 11**

T.	12/6	Final Project Presentations
TH.	12/8	How do <i>you</i> define Scandinavian Studies? Course Evaluations

**FINAL PROJECTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY 5:30 PM ON 12/12/03**