

Political Science 120E
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Fall Quarter 2010
T Th 8:00 – 9:20
Center Hall 216

SCANDINAVIAN POLITICS

Objectives

This course examines the politics of the Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and to a more limited extent, the other Nordic countries: Finland and Iceland. The Scandinavian nations are noted internationally for their peacefulness, social and gender equality, strong labor unions and social democratic parties, expansive governments, and high taxes, just to mention a few salient features. These and other Scandinavian characteristics will be focal points for this course. The course has three main objectives: (1) to familiarize students with Scandinavian politics and society, (2) to cover important scholarly topics and debates as they relate to Scandinavia, and (3) to engage students in discussion and writing on these topics. The course has been designed to survey a variety of substantive topics. Thus, the literature coverage will be extensive rather than intensive. Class meetings will include lectures, discussion, and films. Students should have some background in comparative politics, for example Political Science 11 or the equivalent. Some familiarity with European politics and history will be helpful, but not a prerequisite.

Responsibilities and Grades

Courses assignments include (1) a paper, (2) an in-class midterm, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will consist of objective as well as essay questions. The paper can be either on a topic chosen by you and approved by the instructor, or on a topic assigned by the instructor. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward course grades before adjustment for participation. For students whose final exam grades are better than their average for the midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other assignments 25%. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third toward the course grade. Class attendance is required, and course grades may be adjusted for participation (up to 10%). No student who fails to complete one or more required assignments will pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Incompletes or special exams will be given only in *pressing* and *properly documented* cases and in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions have to be *timely*.

Academic Honesty

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, any violation of which is a serious matter. The General Catalog spells out UCSD regulations concerning academic dishonesty. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person. This prohibition includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and no collaboration with any person in or outside this class is permitted. In-class tests will be *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. Academic dishonesty will be punished by a grade penalty up to automatic failure, and any such case will **without exception** be reported for disciplinary action.

Teaching Assistant

Emily Matthews (eomathews@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant. Her office hours will be Tue 1-2 at Café Roma (in the Price Center) and by appointment.

Calendar

Tentatively, the **midterm** has been scheduled for **October 19**, and the **papers** will be due on **November 16**. The **final examination** will be given on **Tuesday, December 7, between 8:00 and 10:59 am**. All dates and class schedules are subject to change by announcement in class.

Books and Materials

The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore:

- David Arter, *Scandinavian Politics Today*. 2nd edition. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press, 2009.
- Knut Heidar (ed.), *Nordic Politics: Comparative Perspectives*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 2004.
- Christine Ingebritsen, *Scandinavia in World Politics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.

November 16:

Papers due

November 18-23:

Arter, ch. 8

Heidar, chs. 9 and 12

The Welfare State and Equality Policies

November 30:

Arter, chs. 11-13.

Heidar, ch. 14.

Ingebritsen, ch. 3.

The Nordic Region and Europe

December 2:

Ingebritsen, chs. 4-7.

The Nordic Region and the World

December 7:

Final Examination