

Political Science 120E

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Office Hours: Tue 3:00 - 4:30 and by appointment

Summer Session II 2019

T Th 11:00 - 1:50
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SCANDINAVIAN POLITICS

Objectives

This course examines the politics of the five Scandinavian (or Nordic) countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Scandinavia is noted for its peacefulness, class and gender equality, strong labor unions and social democratic parties, expansive welfare states, law-abiding citizens, high standards of living, high prices and taxes, and its reluctance to embrace European integration. We will explore these and other Scandinavian characteristics, with three main objectives: (1) to familiarize you with Scandinavian politics and society, (2) to enable you to understand and discuss important scholarly topics and debates as they relate to Scandinavia, and (3) to engage you in discussion and writing on topics related to Scandinavian politics. Class meetings will thus include both lectures and discussions. On the paper assignment and on final exam essays, you will be able to focus on two of the Nordic countries, though at least one of these must be either Denmark or Sweden. Students will benefit from some background in Comparative Politics, for example Political Science 11 or an equivalent. Some familiarity with European politics and history will also be helpful, but is not a prerequisite. The course will be supported by an electronic course account, where lecture files and assignments will be uploaded. There will be no podcasts or i-clicker assignments.

Responsibilities and Grades

Your course assignments will include (1) a brief discussion paper, (2) an in-class midterm, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will contain objective as well as essay questions. The paper will be on your choice among a set of discussion topics assigned by the instructor and listed below in this syllabus. Each paper should be no less than about 600-800 words in length. These papers must be submitted no later than noon the day before the class meeting to which they relate (except for those related to the first week of classes, which may be submitted through Thursday of the following week), and by August 31 at the latest. The midterm and the paper will each count 25% toward your course grade, and the final exam 50%. You are expected to attend class and participate in discussions, and course grades may be adjusted, up or down, for participation (up to 10%). You will need to complete all the written assignments to pass the course. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Late papers will be penalized. Incompletes or special exams will, in accordance with UC San Diego policy, be given only for timely petitions in *pressing* and *properly documented* cases.

Academic Integrity

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation (such as cheating) is a serious matter. The General Catalog spells out UC San Diego rules concerning academic integrity. Note especially that plagiarism, that is, submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person, is strictly prohibited. This includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments as well as heavy reliance (e.g., copying passages more or less verbatim) on unattributed sources. Unless otherwise indicated, all course assignments are *individual*, and you are not permitted to collaborate with any person in or outside this class. In-class tests will be *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will **without exception** be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for possible disciplinary action.

Books and Materials

The following books are required readings and have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore:

David Arter, *Scandinavian Politics Today*. 3rd edition. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016.
Torbjörn Bergman and Kaare Strøm (eds.), *The Madisonian Turn: Challenges to Parliamentary Democracy in Northern Europe*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011.
Michael Booth, *The Almost Nearly Perfect People*. New York: Picador, 2016.
Byron J. Nordstrom, *Scandinavia since 1500*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

These books will be supplemented by additional readings. All readings below are required and will be placed on library reserve in hard copy or e-reserve.

Calendar

Tentatively, the **midterm** has been scheduled for **August 20**. The **final examination** will be given on **Saturday, September 7, between 11:30am and 2:29pm, location TBA**. All dates and class schedules are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

August 6: The Nordic Societies and their Origins: Vikings, Kings, and Queens

Arter, chap. 1.
Booth, Introduction; Denmark, chaps. 1-2 and 6.
Bergman and Strøm, chap. 2.
Nordstrom, pp. 1-37 and 52-78.

Study Questions:

1. Where does the Nordic region begin and end?
2. What makes the Scandinavian countries distinctive?
3. How did the Vikings affect Europe, and why did they suddenly become peaceful?
4. Margrethe I and the Kalmar Union: Precursors of the European Union?

August 8: From Poverty and Conflict to Affluence and Peace

Booth, Denmark, chaps. 2-3 and 10; Iceland, chaps. 1, 3, and 5.
Nordstrom, pp. 98-120 and 138-185.

Study Questions:

1. Why should we remember Christian IV and Gustavus Adolphus?
2. How did the Protestant Reformation affect Scandinavia?
3. How did Sweden eclipse Denmark as the Nordic great power?
4. Did great power politics define Scandinavia?

August 13: Democracy, Industrialization, and Political Culture

Arter, chaps. 2 and 9.
Booth, Denmark, chaps. 4-6, 11-12, 14; Iceland, chap. 5; Norway, chaps. 1, 4, 7; Finland, chaps. 1-3; Sweden, chaps. 1-3, 8.
Nordstrom, pp. 213-227, 257-281, and 291-357.

Study Questions:

1. To what extent did the Nordic countries pioneer modern democracy?
2. What debts does Nordic democracy owe to the Glorious Revolution, Napoleon, and the Declaration of Independence?
3. Why does Scandinavia have such high levels of social trust?
4. What aspects of Nordic culture are most likely to surprise or confuse foreigners?

August 15: Parliaments, Governments, and Executives

Arter, chaps. 6 and 11-13.

Bergman and Strøm, chaps. 1-7, 10.

Booth, Sweden, chap. 10;

Study Questions:

1. Why are the Nordic legislatures called “working parliaments,” and why does it matter?
2. Are Nordic political leaders a cross-section of their populations?
3. Why does Scandinavia still have monarchies?
4. How have political checks and balances come to be more important in Scandinavia?

August 20: Political Parties and Voters

Arter, chaps. 3-5, 7-8, and 10.

Bergman and Strøm, chap. 8.

Booth, Sweden, chaps. 7-8.

Study Questions:

1. What is special about the Nordic five-party model, and is it still alive?
2. Why have Nordic voters become so much more fickle?
3. Why have Social Democratic parties been so successful?
4. How has immigration changed Scandinavian party politics?

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

August 22: Political Economy

Arter, chap. 10.

Booth, Denmark, chaps. 7-10; Finland, chap. 6; Iceland, chaps 1-2; Norway, chaps. 5-7; Sweden, chap. 11.

Stephanie J. Rickard, *Spending to Win: Political Institutions, Economic Geography, and Government Subsidies*.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018, chap. 7.

Study Questions:

1. Is there (still) a Nordic model of political economy?
2. Was the Third Way Swedish, Nordic, or Social Democratic?
3. What is the purpose of (neo-)corporatism and why has it declined?
4. Why did Sweden, Finland, and Iceland need to be turned around?

August 27: The Welfare State

Arter, chaps. 14-15.

Booth, Denmark, chaps. 3, 7-9 and 14; Finland, chap. 6; Sweden, chap. 11.

Study Questions:

1. How has the Nordic welfare state changed from the Great Depression to the 21st century?
2. How has the Nordic welfare state been changed by feminism and immigration?
3. In what ways has the Scandinavian welfare state been a model for other countries?
4. Will the Nordic welfare state go bankrupt?

August 29: Gender and the Representation of Women

Booth, Finland, chap. 7; Norway, chaps. 2-3; Sweden, chaps. 4-6, and 9.

Michael Lewis, *Boomerang*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011, chap. 1 ("Wall Street on the Tundra.")

Mari Teigen and Hege Skjeie, "The Nordic Gender Equality Model." In Oddbjørn Knutsen (ed.), *The Nordic Models in Political Science* (Oslo; Fagbokforlaget, 2017), chap. 5.

Study Questions:

1. Why are the Nordic countries so woman-friendly?
2. How has the strong presence of women affected Scandinavian politics?
3. What policy areas matter most for gender equality?
4. Does Scandinavian gender equality rest on cultural norms or on quotas, preferences, and government regulations?

September 3: Immigration, Integration, and the Rule of Law

Booth, Denmark, chap. 14; Finland, chap. 7; Norway, chaps. 1-3; Sweden, chaps. 4-6 and 9.

Study Questions:

1. Why are Scandinavians so law-abiding?
2. What are the differences between civil liberties in Scandinavia and the United States?
3. Why are some Nordic countries still much more ethnically homogeneous than others?
4. Do recent terror incidents mean that the Nordic countries have failed to integrate immigrants and ethnic minorities?

September 5: The Nordic Region, Europe, and the World

Arter, chaps. 16-18.

Booth, Finland, chaps. 4-5; Iceland, chap. 5; Epilogue.

Christine Ingebritsen, *Scandinavia in World Politics* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), chap. 2.

Study Questions:

1. Why are Nordic countries so Euro-skeptic?
2. How did World War II and the Cold War affect Nordic attitudes toward Europe?
3. Why have the Nordic countries become global agenda-setters?
4. How have key individuals shaped Nordic international engagement?

September 7: FINAL EXAMINATION