

Political Science 120E

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T Th 9:30 – 10:50
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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. Among the notable features of these nations are peacefulness, social and gender equality, strong labor unions and social democratic parties, expansive governments, and high prices and taxes. This course will explore these and other Scandinavian characteristics. 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. The course will survey a variety of substantive topics, and class meetings will include lectures, discussion, and films. Students will benefit from having some background in comparative politics, for example Political Science 11 or the equivalent. Some familiarity with European politics and history will also be helpful, but is not a prerequisite.

Responsibilities and Grades

Course 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 your choice among a set of topics assigned by the instructor. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward course grades before adjustment for participation. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm and paper, your final will count 50% toward the course grade and each of the other assignments 25%. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Class attendance is required, and course grades may be adjusted, up or down, 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 for timely petitions in *pressing* and *properly documented* cases in accordance with UCSD policy.

Academic Integrity

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, any violation of which (such as cheating) is a serious matter. The General Catalog spells out UCSD regulations concerning academic integrity. 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 as well as close reliance on unattributed sources (e.g., copying passages more or less verbatim). 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 suspected case will **without exception** be reported to the Academic Integrity Office for disciplinary action.

Teaching Assistant

Garrett Bredell (gbredell@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant. His office hours will be announced.

Calendar

Tentatively, the **midterm** has been scheduled for **February 7**, and the **papers** will be due on **March 5**. The **final examination** will be given on **Tuesday, March 19, between 8:00 and 10:59 am, location TBA**. 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:

Torbjörn Bergman and Kaare Strøm (eds.), *The Madisonian Turn: Challenges to Parliamentary Democracy in Northern Europe*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011.

Knut Heidar (ed.), *Nordic Politics: Comparative Perspectives*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 2004.
Christine Ingebritsen, *Scandinavia in World Politics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.
Byron J. Nordstrom, *Scandinavia since 1500*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.
These books will be supplemented by various additional texts. All readings below are required and will be placed on library reserve. Details will be discussed in class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

January 8-10: Introduction: The Nordic Societies

Bergman and Strøm, ch. 2.

Ingebritsen, ch. 1.

Study Questions:

1. What are the boundaries of the Nordic region?
2. What makes the Scandinavian countries distinctive?

January 15: Vikings, Kings, and Queens

Heidar, ch. 1.

Nordstrom, pp. 1-37 and 52-78.

Study Questions:

1. How did the Vikings affect Europe, and why did they suddenly become peaceful?
2. Margrethe I and the Kalmar Union: Precursors of contemporary Europe?

January 17: Nordic Competition and Conflict

Nordstrom, pp. 98-120 and 138-185.

Study Questions:

1. Why should we remember Christian IV and Gustavus Adolphus?
2. Why did Sweden eclipse Denmark as the Nordic great power?

January 22: Industrialization, Nationalism, and Democratization

Ingebritsen, ch. 2.

Nordstrom, pp. 213-227, 257-281, 291-357.

Study Questions:

1. How have the Nordic countries been pioneers of modern democracy?
2. How did colonialism and industrialization affect Scandinavia?

January 24: Political Culture

Harry Eckstein, *Division and Cohesion in Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1966), pp. 11-32, 39-60, and 78-110.

Ingebritsen, ch. 2.

Anne Cohen Kiel (ed.), *Continuity and Change* (Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 1993), chs. 1 and 3.

Study Questions:

1. Why do the Nordic countries have such high levels of social trust?
2. What aspects of Nordic culture are most likely to make foreign-born commuters angry?

January 29: Political Executives

Bergman and Strøm, ch. 2 (review) and the relevant parts of chs. 3-7.

Study Questions:

1. Why do the Scandinavian countries still have monarchies?
2. How have political "checks and balances" come to be more important in Scandinavia?

January 31- February 5: Governments and Parliaments

Bergman and Strøm, chs. 1, 3-7, 10.

Heidar, ch. 7- 8 (Narud, Rasch).

Study Questions:

1. Why are the Nordic legislatures called “working parliaments,” and how does it matter?
2. Are Nordic political leaders a cross-section of their populations?

February 7: Midterm Examination

February 12-14: Political Parties and Voters

Heidar, chs. 3-4 (Heidar, Knutsen).

Bergman and Strøm, ch. 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?

February 19: The Rise and Decline of Social Democracy

Gösta Esping-Andersen, *Politics Against Markets* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1985), chs. 3 and 10.

Hugh Heclø and Henrik Madsen, *Politics and Policy in Sweden* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), ch. 1.

Study Questions:

1. Why has the Swedish Social Democratic party been so spectacularly successful?
2. How has social democracy shaped Scandinavia?

February 21: Corporatism and Economic Policy

Heidar, ch. 6 (Nordby).

Assar Lindbeck et al., *Turning Sweden Around* (Boston: MIT Press, 1994), chs. 1 and 5.

Study Questions:

1. What is the purpose of corporatism?
2. Why did Sweden need to be turned around?

February 26: Gender and the Roles of Women

Heidar, ch. 9 (Raaum).

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

Study Questions:

1. Why have the Nordic countries in recent decades become so woman-friendly?
2. How has the strong presence of women affected Scandinavian politics?

February 28: Immigration and Inclusion

Ingebritsen, ch. 6.

Study Questions:

1. Why are some Nordic countries still much more ethnically homogeneous than others?
2. Do the recent terror incidents mean that the Nordic countries have failed to integrate immigrants and ethnic minorities?

March 5: Papers due

March 5-7: The Welfare State

Heidar, ch. 12 (Steen)

Study Questions:

1. How has the Nordic welfare state changed from the Great Depression to the 21st century?
2. Will the Nordic welfare state go bankrupt?

March 12: The Nordic Region and Europe

Heidar, ch. 14 (Matlary).

Ingebritsen, ch. 3.

Study Questions:

1. Why have the Nordic countries been so Euro-skeptic?
2. How did World War II and the Cold War affect Nordic attitudes toward Europe?

March 14: The Nordic Region and the World

Ingebritsen, chs. 4-5 and 7.

Study Questions:

1. Why have the Nordic countries become global agenda-setters?
2. How have key individuals shaped Nordic international engagement?

March 19: Final Examination