

SCAND 100: Introduction to Scandinavia

Spring Quarter 2020

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Every Friday, you will be assigned a 250-word response essay on that week's topics. (Details to come)

Schedule of weekly topics and reading assignments

Please note that there will probably be changes over the quarter. Follow current assignments in the Modules section on Canvas.



Week 1: March 30-April 3: Northlands of Europe

Introduction to the online class:

1. Lecture: About this course: How to study
2. Lecture: What books will we read?
 - a. Read **Partanen, Nordic Theory of Everything, last 17 pages**, esp “Questions for discussion” (last page)
 - b. Read **Joņevs, Doom 94, pages 9-25**
 - c. Read **Thunberg, No One is Too Small, pages 1-11**
 - d. No reading assignment in the fourth book by Žemaitė
3. Lecture: What are the learning objectives for this course?
 - a. Read **Partanen Chapter 4** “How Children Achieve” (107-166)

Introduction to Scandinavia (the Nordic and Baltic countries)

4. Topic: North-lands: Exploring Geography
 - a. Lecture: What/where/who is Scandinavia?
5. Topic: North-lands: Exploring Cultures
 - a. Watch: Nordic Light: A Composer's Diary (57 min video) and
 - b. Watch Nordic Light: A Multimedia Symphony (44 min), by Ēriks Ešenvalds.

Week 2: April 6-10. Heroic Myths and Reality

Topics / read & watch (lectures TBA)

1. Lectures TBA: Remembering heroes in Denmark, Finland and beyond
 - a. Read Hans Christian Andersen, “Holger the Dane”
 - b. Kalevala paintings: [Väinämöinen Playing Kantele](#) (R.W.Ekman, 1857) & [Defense of the Sampo](#) (A.Gallen-Kallela 1896)
Optional background: “[The Story in Paintings](#)” (parts 1 & 2)
2. Topic: Imagining Viking Heroes, past&present
 - a. Read excerpts from Snorri Sturluson's Prose Edda, written 1220: Paragraphs about Týr (Gylfagginging, p.39) and Valkyries (48), and the story of Sigurdr and Fáfnir (Skáldskaparmál, p. 152-155). Pages are from the online copy of [1916 English translation by Brodeur](#).
 - b. Faroese metal band Týr [[6 min video](#)], and two of their songs: [Valkyrja](#) [[Valkyrja English lyrics](#)]; [Ramund the Young](#) [[Ramund English lyrics](#)].
3. Topic: Historical heroes in Latvia and Lithuania
 - a. Read excerpts from Livonian Rhymed Chronicle and Volhynian Chronicle
 - b. Latvian metal band Skyforger, [Nothing is Forgotten](#) + lyrics, and trailer for 2019 blockbuster film about the Latvian Riflemen in World War I: [Blizzard of Souls](#)
 - c. Lithuanian singers in Vilnius, 16 February 2020: Don't Cry Dear Mother + lyrics
4. Topic for discussion: Nordic vs. American Identities
 - a. Read **Partanen 1** “Becoming American”(11-46)

Week 3: April 13-17: Global Connections, Norm Entrepreneurs

1. Lectures TBA: Global Scandinavians: Norm entrepreneurs
 - a. Read: **Thunberg @ UN Climate Change Conference and other speeches (12-22, 76-106)**
2. Topic: Nature-lands
 - a. Listen/read song by Ulf Lundell—jag trivs bäst i öppna landskap.
 - b. Listen/read Nordic Metal TBA
3. Topic: Fighting for Truth and Freedom of Speech:
 - a. Read news articles about [Gui Minhai](#) and [Jessikka Aro](#)
4. Topic: What is Nordic/Baltic identity?
 - a. Read **Partanen 2** “Nordic Theory of Love” (47-62)
 - b. Read **Jonevs Doom 94 (26-64)**

Week 4: April 20-24: Lands of Democracy and Rule of Law

1. Lecture: Nordic and Baltic Parliamentary Democracies Today
 - a. Read **Partanen 6** “Ask what your country can do” (233-262)
2. Lecture: Viking democracy
 - a. Hrafnkels saga Freysgoði pdf (or if you have a Mac, digital edition [The eSaga of Hrafnkell Freysgodi](#))
3. Lecture: History, from monarchies toward democracy
 - a. Reading TBA
 - b. Read about the struggle for Constitutions in [Lithuania 1863](#); and Finland [Edvard Isto painting, “Attack”](#)
4. Lecture: The Nonviolent Baltic Singing Revolution, 1987-1991, and song traditions today
 - a. Watch “To Breathe as One”
 - b. Watch and read: “No One Is Alone”, at the 2019 Estonian National Song Celebration
5. **Jonevs Doom 94 (66-96)**

Week 5: April 27-May 1: Folklore-Lands

1. **Thunberg, Surrounded by Fairy Tales (85-95)**
2. Fairy and Troll tales in Norway
 - a. Read: “The Maiden on the Glass Mountain” & “Kari Stave-Skirt”
 - b. Read: Ibsen, Peer Gynt (excerpts)
 - c. Listen/read: Grieg, [Hall of the Mountain King \[Norwegian text & English translation, Wikipedia\]](#)
3. A glass mountain in Latvia: the National Library – Fortress of Light
 - a. Read: Rainis, “The Golden Steed” (excerpt)
 - b. Watch excerpt, “Golden Horse” (blockbuster film)
4. Read **Jonevs 97-153**

Week 6: May 4-8: Empowered Lands

1. Children’s empowerment through stories
 - a. Read: **Thunberg I’m too young to do this (23-38)**
 - b. Read: Pippi Longstocking (excerpt)
2. Women and power
 - a. Read **Žemaitė, Tofylis**
 - b. Aspazija, Avengeress (?)
3. Read **Partanen 3** “Family Values” (63-106)
4. Read **Jonevs, Doom (154-183)**

Week 7: May 11-15: Empathetic Social Justice

1. Read Hans Christian Andersen Little & Big Claus; Match grl
2. Read Karen Blixen, “The Ring”
3. Read **Jonevs, Doom 94 (184-215)**
4. Read **Partanen 5** “Universal Healthcare could set you free” (167-232)

Week 8: May 18-22: Diverse Lands

1. Watch SAS commercial, Nothing is truly Scandinavian [video](#)
2. **Jonevs, Doom 94 (216-245)**
3. Watch **Olefaš (Pathfinder)**
4. Read **Partanen 7** "The American Dream" (263-278)
5. Read **Partanen, "Epilogue"** (331-333)

Week 9: May 25-29 (May 25= Memorial Day Holiday): Startup Lands

1. Read **Partanen 8** "Business" (279-304)
2. Read **Jonevs, Doom (246-56)**
3. Read **Thunberg (39-75)?**

Week 10: June 1-5: Happy Lands

1. Read **Partanen 9** "Happiness" (305-333)
2. Read **Partanen**, Questions for discussion (book's last page)

Final Exam Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 2:30-4:20 pm (this will probably change!)