



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
History

Syllabus

Scandinavian history

Course Code:	HIA720
Course Title:	Scandinavian history <i>Skandinaviens historia</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
HIA (History)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2023-08-22, and is valid from the Spring semester 2024 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed, with at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, in one of the following main areas: History, History of ideas, Cultural studies, Religion, Political science, Social science, Ethnology, Archeology, Sociology, or Human geography, plus upper secondary level English 6/A, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. independently and critically demonstrate basic knowledge in the field of Scandinavian history,
2. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of selected themes in the field,
3. give an account of and discuss current research results in the field of Scandinavian history, and
4. give an account of and reflect critically upon how historical knowledge is produced.

Content

Scandinavia is known internationally as a region of largely Social Democrat-oriented welfare states, and as the historic homeland of the Vikings. This course offers a broader understanding of Scandinavia's past, highlighting the dramatic events that transformed a peripheral European region into modern industrial nations. Themes explored in the course include debilitating poverty, ruthless autocracies with colonies in four continents, civil war, and volcanic eruptions, but also intercultural encounters, science, and democratic breakthroughs. The course covers Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic history from the Viking age onwards, and provides knowledge of the politics, demography, religion, economy, and culture of the region. There is a special focus on state building, conflicts and conflict resolution, migration and minorities, as well as cultural developments in the Nordic countries.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, which provide overviews of Scandinavian history, and seminars.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcome 1 is assessed on the basis of an individual written take-home exam.

Learning outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed on the basis of active participation in seminars and short written hand-in assignments completed individually.

Learning outcome 4 is assessed on the basis of an individual written take-home exam, active participation in seminars, and short written hand-in assignments completed individually.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.