



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
History

Syllabus

Scandinavian history

Course Code:

HIG720

Course Title:

Scandinavian history
Skandinaviens historia

Credits:

7.5

Degree Level:

Undergraduate level

**Progressive
Specialisation:**

First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:

HIA (History)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-08-12, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements plus upper secondary level History 1b or 1a1 + 1a2 and Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2, or History level 1b or level 1a1 + 1a2 and Civics level 1b or level 1a1 + 1a2, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. demonstrate basic knowledge in the field of Scandinavian history,
2. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of selected themes in the field,
3. present and discuss current research results in the field of Scandinavian history, and
4. give an account of a critical evaluation of historical knowledge in the field.

Content

Scandinavia is known as a region of predominantly Social Democrat welfare states, and as

the historic homeland of the Vikings. This course offers a broad understanding of Scandinavia's past and highlights 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, and 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.