



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

From the Vikings to IKEA: Swedish Ideas Throughout History - 54670

Last update 03-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: European Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Orna Keren-Carmel

Coordinator Email: Orna.Keren@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Orna Keren

Course/Module description:

What makes a society of wild, egalitarian, cruel, and curious seafarers become the world's most successful and peace-loving welfare state 1000 years later? Did the way of thinking that led the Vikings to go on plundering journeys, and on the way to discover America, later lead the Norwegians to found the largest wealth fund in the world, to establish a Swedish company for unique furniture for the masses, and to make the Danes the happiest people of all? The course presents an introduction to the central ideas in Scandinavia throughout history and up to the 21st century, both through key figures and through a variety of primary sources.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Examine Sweden's (and other Nordic countries') historical development from the Viking Age to the present in terms of politics, social issues, culture and economics
- Evaluate the similarities and differences between Sweden's and other countries' general histories
- Understand long-term historical developments - and how they change over time

Attendance requirements(%):

90%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

- 1.The afterlife of the Vikings
- 2.Nordic regionalism
- 3.Civic society and a strong state – Swedish People's Home
- 4.Between neutrality and humanitarianism
- 5.Astrid Lindgren: children's literature, politics and the welfare state
- 6.Swedish neutrality during the Second World War
- 7.The Finnish Education system
- 8.Swedish theory of love and modernism

9. Swedish myths – utopia or dystopia?

Required Reading:

Guttormsen, Torgrim Sneve. "Valuing Immigrant Memories as Common Heritage: The Leif Erikson Monument in Boston" *History and memory* 30.2 (2018): 79-115

Østergård, Uffe. "The Geopolitics of Nordic Identity – From Composite States to Nation-States" In: Sørensen, Øystein, and Bo Stråth. *The Cultural Construction of Norden*. Oslo: Scandinavian University Press, 1997. 25-71

Hilson, Mary. "The Nordic Welfare Model" In: Lindskog, Annika, and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen. *Introduction to Nordic Cultures*. London: UCL Press, 2020. 70-84

Borring Olesen, Thorsten. "Scandinavian Development Policies" In: Peter Nedergaard & Anders Wivel. *The Routledge Handbook of Scandinavian Politics*. London and New York: Routledge, 2018. 294-305

Östling, Johan. "The Rise and Fall of Small-State Realism: Sweden and the Second World War" In: *Nordic Narratives of the Second World War: National Historiographies Revisited*. N.p., 2011. 127-148

Prøitz, Tine S. & Aasen, Peter, "Making and re-making the Nordic model of education" In: Peter Nedergaard & Anders Wivel. *The Routledge Handbook of Scandinavian Politics*. London and New York: Routledge, 2018. 213-228

Elettra Carbone, and Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen. "Modern Experiences." *Introduction to Nordic Cultures*. UCL Press, 2020. 55-69

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 30 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 30 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 40 %

Additional information: