



## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SCIENCES

### **KVL183 Scandinavian Studies: Cultural and Social Perspectives, 30 credits**

Scandinavian Studies: Cultural and Social Perspectives, 30 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus is a tentative version, was confirmed by Department of Cultural Sciences on.

*Field of education:* Arts 100%

*Department:* Department of Cultural Sciences

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is a single subject course within the Faculty of Arts.

*Main field of studies*

Cultural Studies

*Specialization*

G1N, First Cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

General entrance requirements

#### **Learning outcomes**

*After completing the course the students will be able to:*

*Knowledge and understanding*

- give an overview of central aspects and characteristic features of Scandinavian historical development.
- In a general way identify, describe and discuss social and cultural changes in the post-industrial city in relation to globalization, segregation, marginality and ethnic differentiations.
- overall summarize and describe the process of modernization from a consumer culture

perspective.

- on an introductory level account for different aspects of Swedish culture and everyday life in different historical and social contexts.

describe and discuss the contemporary Swedish family.

#### *Competence and skills*

- on an introductory level analyse specific characteristics and positions of the Scandinavian countries within a European political and social context .

- reflect upon signs of urban changes and processes in the contemporary city and apply basic concepts.

- examine and analyze expressions of consumer culture in Sweden.

- conduct a minor field study, analyzing cultural phenomena concerning everyday life in contemporary Sweden.

- analyse the relation between politics, everyday life and the construction of the family.

- use different theoretical tools and perspectives to study the family.

#### *Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate a reflective approach to intercultural issues.

- discuss and analyse the relation between different national contexts and the construction of the modern family

### **Course content**

The course addresses foreign students with the aim of enlarging their knowledge of Scandinavian society from cultural, historical, and social perspectives. The course is divided into four (4) course units:

#### **The Development of Scandinavia in a European Context, 7, 5 higher education credits**

This course offers an introduction to the development of Scandinavian society from a European point of view. The point of departure will be ancient times and early medieval Scandinavian society and mainly concentrating on the development of the modern Scandinavian and Swedish society.

#### **Consumer Culture – From Cheap Jack to Super Malls, 7.5 higher education credits**

The course provides both a historical and contemporary understanding of consumption in a Swedish and Scandinavian context, where the sociocultural, experiential, symbolic, and ideological aspects of consumption will be in focus. During the course we will explore theoretical perspectives that address the dynamic relationship between consumer actions, the marketplace, and cultural meanings.

**Swedish Culture – Myths and Realities, 7, 5 higher education credits**

The course will examine Swedish everyday culture in a broad sense. Into a chronologically presented warp of society and everyday life from the pre-industrial Sweden until the present, thematic threads such as gender and ethnicity as well as nature and folklore, will be interwoven. The construction of identities is a central issue.

**Gender and Families, 7,5 hp**

In this course we will investigate and discuss the contemporary Swedish family. The course will provide a general outlook on the structure, form and mobility of the family, as well as a closer and more thorough analysis of different developments within the family. Some of the topics that will be raised and discussed are fatherhood in transition, immigrant families and the construction of the other, and queer perspectives on the family. Although the general focus will be on the Swedish family, we will also position current developments and changes of the family in a global framework.

**Form of teaching**

*Language of instruction:* English

**Assessment**

During each course unit the student is assessed through a written home essay and active participation in seminars announced as obligatory. In connection with each course unit a re-take of the examination is offered.

In case the course has been discontinued or major changes have been made, the student is guaranteed at least three occasions (including the ordinary occasion) during a time of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiner. A written application should be sent to the department.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For the grade High Pass on the course, this grade is required on 50% of the course units.

**Course evaluation**

The director of studies will see to that the results of the evaluation will systematically and continuously be taken into consideration and function as a guide for the development of the course.

**Additional information**

The course can not be included in, or be a part of, a degree together with the course KVL900.