

Political Science 120E  
Professor Kaare Strom  
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Fall Quarter 2009  
MWF 3 - 3:50  
Pepper Canyon Hall 109

# SCANDINAVIAN POLITICS

## Objectives

This course examines the politics of the Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and to a more limited extent, the other Nordic countries: Finland and Iceland. The Scandinavian nations are noted internationally for their peacefulness, social and gender equality, strong labor unions and social democratic parties, expansive governments, and high taxes, just to mention a few salient features. These and other Scandinavian characteristics will be focal points for this course. The course has three main objectives: (1) to familiarize students with Scandinavian politics and society, (2) to cover important scholarly topics and debates by focusing on Scandinavian applications, and (3) to engage students in discussion and writing. Students should have some background in comparative politics, at a minimum Political Science 11 or the equivalent. Some familiarity with European politics and history will be helpful, but not a prerequisite.

## Approach

The course has been designed to survey a variety of substantive topics. Thus, the literature coverage will be extensive rather than intensive. The class format will include group discussion, films, and lectures.

## Responsibilities and Grades

Courses assignments include (1) a fairly short (approx. 6-9 pp.) paper, (2) an in-class midterm, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will consist of objective as well as essay questions. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your course grade before adjustment for participation. For students whose final exam grades are better than their average for the midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other two assignments 25%. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third toward the course grade. Class attendance is required, and course grades may be adjusted for participation. No student who fails to complete one or more required assignments will pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Extensions, incompletes, or special exams will be given only in *exceptionally pressing* cases and in accordance with UCSD policy. Petitions have to be *timely and properly documented*.

## Academic Honesty

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, any violation of which is a very serious matter. The General Catalog spells out UCSD regulations concerning academic dishonesty. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person. This prohibition includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and no collaboration with any person in or outside this class is permitted. In-class tests are *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. Academic dishonesty will be punished by a grade penalty up to automatic failure in the course, and any such case will **without exception** be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

## Organization and Calendar

Emily Matthews ([emattthews@ucsd.edu](mailto:emattthews@ucsd.edu)) will be the Teaching Assistant for this course. Her office hours will be W 1:30-2:30 and by appointment. Tentatively, the **midterm** is scheduled for **October 27**. The **papers** are tentatively due on **November 23**. The **final examination** will be given on **Friday, December 11, between 3:00 and 5:59 pm** (Note: You may be given less time than two hours). All dates and class schedules are subject to change, as announced in class.

## Books and Materials

The following books (all in paperback) have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore:

- David Arter, *Scandinavian Politics Today*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1999.
- Christine Ingebritsen, *Scandinavia in World Politics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.
- Byron J. Nordstrom, *Scandinavia since 1500*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

Two other books will also be used extensively in class but not ordered for purchase in the Bookstore:

Knut Heidar (ed.), *Nordic Politics: Comparative Perspectives*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 2004.

Torbjörn Bergman and Kaare Strøm (eds.), *Nordic Chill: Challenges to Parliamentary Democracy in Northern Europe*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, forthcoming.

Most additional course readings will be available as a course packet through. All readings will be placed on library reserve. Details will be discussed in class. All readings listed below are required.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

September 25-28:

### **Introduction: Scandinavian Society**

Harry Eckstein, *Division and Cohesion in Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1966), ch. 2.

"Dancing to a New Tune: A Survey of the Nordic Region." *The Economist*, June 14, 2003, pp. 3-16.

September 30 – October 9:

### **Political History: The Scandinavian Route**

Nordstrom, pp. 1-37, 52-78, 98-120, 138-185, 213-227, 257-281, 291-357.

Arter, chs. 1-2.

Heidar, ch. 1.

October 12-14:

### **Political Culture**

Heidar, ch. 5.

Anne Cohen Kiel (ed.), *Continuity and Change* (Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 1993), chs. 1 and 3.

Eckstein, chs. 3-5.

Bo Rothstein, *Social Traps and the Problem of Trust* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2005), ch. 4.

October 16-21:

### **Governments, Parliaments, and Elections**

Arter, chs. 9-10.

Heidar, ch. 8.

**October 23:**

### **Midterm Examination**

October 25 – November 2:

### **Political Parties**

Arter, chs. 3 and 5.

Heidar, chs. 3-4.

November 4-9:

### **The Rise and Decline of Social Democracy**

Arter, chs. 4 and 6.

Gösta Esping-Andersen, *Politics Against Markets* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1985), chs. 3, 10.

Hugh Hecllo and Henrik Madsen, *Politics and Policy in Sweden* (Phila: Temple Univ. Press, 1987), ch. 1.

November 23-25:

### **Economic Policy and Industrial Relations**

Arter, ch. 7.

Heidar, ch. 6.

Assar Lindbeck et al., *Turning Sweden Around* (Boston: MIT Press, 1994), chs. 1, 5.

"Dancing to a New Tune: A Survey of the Nordic Region." (Refresh)

November 30 – June 1:

### **The Welfare State and Equality Policies**

Arter, ch. 8

Heidar, chs. 9 and 12

"Dancing to a New Tune: A Survey of the Nordic Region." (Refresh)

June 6-8:

### **Foreign Policy and European Integration**

Arter, chs. 11-13.  
Heidar, chs. 13-14.  
Ingebritsen, ch. 1, 3-8.

June 15:

**Final Examination**