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History # 223/578:
Contemporary Scandinavia and International Relations

Course Description:

This course explores the main developments in Scandinavian international relations during the 20th century, which, in turn, are studied within a comparative pan-European context. The class shall consider both intra- and extra-Scandinavian contacts, paying special attention to the Nordic states' relations to Britain, Germany, the United States, the Soviet Union, as well as the developing world. In particular, the course focuses on the impact of the two World Wars, the Cold War, and West European integration on the Scandinavian countries. While this class is mainly preoccupied with diplomacy (including cultural relations) it will also address major political, economic, intellectual, and military trends in this period. It is additionally interested in the question of to what extent electoral politics, media opinion, commercial interests, and military elites influence foreign policy decisions. Finally, the course highlights the decisive role that the strategic balance of power in the Baltic and north Atlantic traditionally has played in the five Nordic nations' foreign policy formulation processes. The first twelve weeks shall follow a regular lecture/discussion format, while the last three weeks will be organized around the students' in-class presentations.

Course Requirements 500 Level Students:

Seminar participation is mandatory, and therefore attendance will be taken each week. 500-level students will write a 25-page research paper. Although the students will choose their own paper topics, the subject of final research paper will be selected in consultation with the instructor. To that end, all students will be asked to submit a formal paper

proposal (including a bibliography that should contain some kind of primary sources). Each student will furthermore give a formal 15-minute in-class presentation on their research topic. A copy of the presentation must be provided beforehand to both the instructor and the student commentators. 500-level students will also occasionally have extra reading assignments, which will be discussed separately with the instructor.

Course Requirements 200 Level Students:

Seminar participation is mandatory, and therefore attendance will be taken each week. 200-level students will write one 5-page critical review of William R. Trotter's book, *The Winter War*, as well as a 12-page research paper. Although the students will choose their own paper topics, the subject of final research paper will be selected in consultation with the instructor. To that end, all students will be asked to submit a formal paper proposal (including a bibliography). Each student will moreover write a 2-page response paper to a pre-assigned presentation, in addition to providing in-class commentary.

Grading by % 500 Level Students:

In-class Presentation 25 %
Final 25-Page Research Paper 75 %

Grading by % 200 Level Students:

2-Page Presentation Response/Commentary 15 %
5-page Critical Book Review 25%
Final 15-page Paper 60 %

Required Texts All Students:

Jussi Hanhimäki, *Scandinavia and the United States: An insecure friendship* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1997)

Patrick Salmon, *Scandinavia and the Great Powers 1890-1940* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

William R. Trotter, *The Winter War: The Russo-Finnish War of 1939-40* (London: Aurum Press, 2003)

Lennart Wohlgemuth, ed. *The Nordic Countries and Africa: Old and new relations* (Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 2002)

Course Reader (Essays by Christine Ingebritsen, Torsten B. Olesen, etc).
(The Course Reader can be purchased from the Humanities Copy Center)

Recommended Text:

Tony Griffiths, *Scandinavia: At war with Trolls* (New York: Palgrave, 2004)

Course Overview:

Week 1 Introduction: Modern Scandinavian Politics, Society and Diplomacy

7 Sept.
Course Reader: Krister Wahlbäck, "The Nordic Region in Twentieth-Century European Politics" and Ib Faurby, "Decision Structures and Domestic Sources of Nordic Foreign Policies."

(Griffiths, Ch. 1-2)

Week 2 Scandinavian International Relations in the 19th Century

12-14 Sept.
Salmon, Introduction & Ch. 1-2

(Griffiths, Ch. 3)

Week 3 World War I, the Russian Revolution, and Finnish Independence

19-21 Sept.
Salmon, Ch. 3-4
Course Reader: **500 Level Only** Ohto Manninen, "Red, White and Blue in Finland, 1918."

(Griffiths, Ch. 4)

Week 4 Scandinavian Diplomacy in the 1920's

26-28 Sept.
Salmon, Ch. 5-7

(Griffiths, Ch. 5)

Week 5 Scandinavian Diplomacy in the 1930's

3-5 Oct.
Salmon, Ch. 8-9
Course Reader: Henrik S. Nissen, "The Nordic Societies."

Week 6 Scandinavia and the Second World War

10-12 Oct.
Trotter, Entire Book
Course Reader: **500 Level Only** Henrik S. Nissen, "Adjusting to German Domination."

(Griffiths, Ch. 6)

200 Level Students 5-page Critical Review of Trotter's book due 12 Oct.

Week 7 Scandinavia in the First Cold War

17-19 Oct.
Hanhimäki, Preface & Ch. 1-3

(Griffiths, Ch. 7)

Week 8 Scandinavian International Relations in the era of Détente and Decolonization

24-26 Oct.
Hanhimäki, Ch. 4-5
Wohlgemuth, Entire Book

(Griffiths, Ch. 8)

Week 9 Scandinavian International Relations from the Détente to the Second Cold War and Intra-Nordic Relations

31 Oct. – 2 Nov.
Hanhimäki, Ch. 6
Course reader: Bengt Sundelius, "The Nordic Model of Neighborly Cooperation" and Ib Faurby, "Danish Alliance Policy 1967-1993." (+ **500 Level Only** Valur Ingimundarson, "A Western Cold War. The Crisis in Iceland's Relations with Britain, the United States and NATO 1971-1974")

(Griffiths, Ch. 9)

Week 10 Scandinavia and European Integration: " The reluctant Europeans"

7-9 Nov.

Course Reader: Torsten B. Olesen "Choosing or Refuting Europe? The Nordic Countries and European Integration, 1945-2000" and Christine Ingebritsen, Ch. 1 & 8 in *The Nordic States and European Unity.*

(Griffiths, Ch. 10-11)

Week 11 Scandinavian International Relations Since the End of the Cold War

14-16 Nov.

Hanhimäki, Ch. 7

Course Reader: Geoffrey Weller, "Scandinavian Security and Intelligence: The European Union, the WEU, and NATO" and Bo Huldt, "The Nordic Countries Facing New Challenges"

All Students Paper & Presentation Proposals due 17 Nov.

Week 12 Introduction to Research Papers and Scandinavian Bibliographical Sources in English

21-23 Nov.

No reading assignment

Week 13 Student Presentations/Commentary

28-30 Nov.

No reading assignment

Week 14 Student Presentations/Commentary

5-7 Dec.

No reading assignment

200 Level Students Research Papers due Dec. 19 (10 am)

Week 15 Student Presentations/Commentary

12-14 Dec.

No reading assignment

500 Level Students Research Papers due Dec. 16 (10 am)