

Syllabus SAS2B: Scandinavian Literature after 1900 – Spring 2017.

(Please note that the syllabus might be subject to change)

Course instructor: Anders M. Gullestad (anders.gullestad@lle.uib.no)

Office: Room 420 (HF)

Office hours: TBA

Lectures: Fridays 12.15-14, room P (234) at Sydneshaugen skole (except week 5: room I (215))

Student advisor: Signe Nilssen (signe.nilssen@uib.no, room 431)

Exam advisor: TBA

ECTS: 15

Language of instruction: English (spoken and written proficiency is required)

Course unit level: Bachelor

Grading scale: A-F

The following titles are for sale at the university bookstore, Akademia. If you decide to get hold of the books from other bookstores or from a library, please make sure to read the following translations:

NOVELS:

Knut Hamsun: *Growth of the Soil* [1917], transl. Sverre Lyngstad. London: Penguin, 2007.

Karin Boye: *Kalloccain* [1940], transl. Gustav Lannestock and with a foreword by Richard B. Vowles. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2002.

Pär Lagerkvist: *The Dwarf* [1945], transl. Alexandra Dick. New York: The Noonday Press, 1973.

Dag Solstad: *Shyness and Dignity* [1994], transl. Sverre Lyngstad. London: Harvill Sacker, 2006.

Per Petterson: *Out Stealing Horses* [2003], transl. Anne Born. London: Vintage Books, 2006.

Sjón: *The Whispering Muse* [2005], transl. Victoria Cribb. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.

Helle Helle: *This Should Be Written in the Present Tense* [2011], transl. Martin Aitken. London: Vintage Books, 2015.

POEMS:

A selection of poems by authors such as, Johannes V. Jensen, Rolf Jacobsen, Tomas Tranströmer, Pär Lagerkvist, Tarjei Vesaas, Edith Södergran, Karin Boye, Olav H. Hauge, Gunvor Hofmo, Jan Erik Vold, and Yahya Hassan. The poems will be handed out in class ahead of the lectures.

SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS:

- Sigrid Undset: "The Charity Ball" (1912). In: Katherine Hansen (ed.): *An Everyday Story: Norwegian Women's Fiction*. Washington: The Seal Press, 1984, pp.76-96. Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
- Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen): "The Blank Page". In: *Last Tales* (1957). Available from http://www.whiterabbit.net/@port03/Dinesen/BlankPage/blank_page.htm
- Karl Ove Knausgaard: "My Saga", Part 1 and 2, *The New York Times* (2015). Available from <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/01/magazine/karl-ove-knausgaard-travels-through-america.html> and <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/15/magazine/karl-ove-knausgaards-passage-through-america.html>

THEORY AND SECONDARY MATERIAL:

- On modernism: Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane: "The Name and Nature of Modernism," in *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature, 1890-1930* [1976]. London: Penguin, 1991, 19-55. Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
- On Scandinavian modernism: excerpts from the anthology *Modernism*, (eds. Astradur Eysteinnsson and Vivian Liska). Amsterdam & Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2007, pp. 833-845 and 855-868. Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
- On Norwegian literature at the beginning of the 20th century: relevant excerpts from William Mishler: "Norwegian Literature 1910-1950." In Harald S. Næss (ed.): *A History of Norwegian Literature*. Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press, 1993, pp. 200-205 and 210-216. Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
- On Hamsun: Peter Mortensen: "'Green by this Time Tomorrow!': Knut Hamsun's Alternative Modernity," *Journal of Modern Literature*, 33:1 (2009), 1-27. Available from <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/369186/pdf>
- On Boye: Richard B. Vowles: "Introduction". In Karin Boye: *Kallocain* [1940], transl. Gustav Lannestock and with a foreword by Richard B. Vowles. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2002, pp. vii-xxi.
- On Lagerkvist: Roger Ramsay: "Pär Lagerkvist: *The Dwarf* and *Dogma*." *Mosaic* 5:3 (1972). Available from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1300063347?accountid=8579>
- On Solstad: Ane Farsethås: "Norway's Greatest Living Writer is Actually Dag Solstad." *Literary Hub* (2015). Available from <http://lithub.com/norways-greatest-writer-is-actually-dag-solstad>
- On Sjón: Sjón: "Inspiration Information: *The Whispering Muse*." *The New Yorker* (2014). Available from <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/inspiration-information-the-whispering-muse>
Excerpt from Robert Graves: *The Greek Myths: Volume 1*. London: Penguin, 1964, pp. 260-262 (Chapter 78). Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
Excerpts from Robert Graves: *The Greek Myths: Volume 2*. London: Penguin, 1964, pp. 215-259 (Chapters 148-157). Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no
- On Petterson: James Wood: "Late and Soon: The Novels of Per Petterson." *The New Yorker* (2012). Available from <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/12/10/late-and-soon-2>

On Knausgaard: Pamela Erens: "Knausgaard's Triumph." *Virginia Quarterly Review*, 91:4 (2015). Available from

<http://www.vqronline.org/fiction-criticism/2015/10/knausgaards-triumph>

On Helle: Per Krogh Hansen: "A Good Place to Weep and Laugh – in the World of Helle Helle." *The Nordic Women's Literature Online* (2014). Available from

<http://nordicwomensliterature.net/article/good-place-weep-and-laugh-%E2%80%93-world-helle-helle>

Some additional articles might be added to the syllabus. If so, they will be made available to you in class.

EXAMS:

There will be a final exam consisting of two parts: a 7-day take-home exam where you write an essay on a given topic, as well as an oral exam covering the entire course material. The exams will be based on the lectures, as well as the primary and secondary texts. Please remember to sign up for the exam early in the semester.

Dates: TBA

SCHEDULE:

Week 3: 20.01 Introduction

Week 4: 27.01 Modernism and neo-realism in 20th century Scandinavian literature: Sigrid Undset: "The Charity Ball", poems by Södergran and Lagerkvist, text on modernism by Bradbury & McFarlane, excerpts from Eysteinsson and Liska (eds.) *Modernism* and excerpts from William Mishler: "Norwegian Literature 1910-1950."

Week 5: 03.02 Knut Hamsun: *The Growth of the Soil*, part I and Peter Mortensen: "'Green by this Time Tomorrow!': Knut Hamsun's Alternative Modernity"

Week 6: 10.02 Knut Hamsun: *The Growth of the Soil*, part II and poems by Johannes V. Jensen and Rolf Jacobsen

Week 7: 17.02 Karin Boye: *Kallocain*, poem by Boye and Richard B. Vowles: "Introduction"

Week 8: 24.02 Karen Blixen: "The Blank Page" and poems by Olav H. Hauge, Tomas Tranströmer, Gunvor Hofmo, Jan Erik Vold and Yahya Hassan.

Week 9: 03.03 Pär Lagerkvist: *The Dwarf* and Roger Ramsay: "Pär Lagerkvist: *The Dwarf* and Dogma."

Week 10: Study week. No lecture

Week 11: 11.03 Dag Solstad: *Shyness and Dignity* and Ane Farsethås: “Norway’s Greatest Living Writer is Actually Dag Solstad”

Week 12: 24.03 Per Petterson: *Out Stealing Horses* and James Wood: “Late and Soon: The Novels of Per Petterson”

Week 13: 31.03 Sjórn: *The Whispering Muse*, Sjórn: “Inspiration Information” and excerpts from Robert Graves: *The Greek Myths*, Vol 1 and 2.

Week 14: 07.04 Karl Ove Knausgaard: “My Saga”, parts I and II, and Erens: “Knausgaard’s Triumph.”

Week 15: Easter break. No lecture

Week 16: 21.04 Helle Helle: *This Should be Written in the Present Tense* and Per Krogh Hansen: “A Good Place to Weep and Laugh – in the World of Helle Helle”

Week 17: 28.04 Summary