

December 1, 2018

Syllabus SAS2B: Scandinavian Literature – 20th and 21st Century
Scandinavian Area Studies – Spring 2019.

Please note that minor changes might be made in the final version of the syllabus.

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

Office: Room 420 (HF)

Office hours: Thursdays 14-15

Lectures: Mondays 12.15-14, room K at Sydneshaugen skole

Student advisor: Guro Sandnes (guro.sandnes@uib.no)

Exam advisor: Vegard Sørhus (vegard.sorhus@uib.no, room 356)

ECTS: 15

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

Course unit level: Bachelor

Grading scale: A-F

READING MATERIALS:

1. Novels:

The following novels can all be found at the university bookstore, Akademia:

Johannes V. Jensen: *The Fall of the King* [1901], transl. Alan G. Bower. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 2011.

Knut Hamsun: *The Ring is Closed* [1936], transl. Robert Ferguson. London: Souvenir Press, 2010.

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

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.

Karl Ove Knausgaard: *My Struggle: Book 1* [2009], transl. Don Bartlett. New York: Farar, Straus & Giroux, 2013.

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

Jonas Hassen Khemiri: *Everything I Don't Remember* [2015], transl. Rachel Willson-Broyles. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016.

2. Poems:

A selection of poems by important Scandinavian authors. The poems will be handed out in class or made available at Mitt UiB ahead of the lectures.

3. Short stories:

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).

One or two additional short stories will be added

4. Theoretical texts and secondary materials:

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: 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 Jensen: TBA

On Hamsun: Sverre Lyngstad: "Absurdism Revisited". In *Knut Hamsun, Novelist: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 307-326. Available from litteraturkiosken.uib.no

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 Solstad: Ane Farsethås: "[Norway's Greatest Living Writer is Actually Dag Solstad](#)." *Literary Hub* (2015).

On Petterson: James Wood: "[Late and Soon: The Novels of Per Petterson](#)." *The New Yorker* (2012).

On Knausgaard: TBA

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).

On Khemiri: TBA

A few additional articles might be added to the syllabus. If so, they will be made available to you.

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:

Take-home exam to be handed out: TBA

Take-home exam to be submitted: TBA

Oral exam: Week 21 or 22

SCHEDULE:

Week 3: 14.01 Introduction

Week 4: 21.01 Johannes V. Jensen: *The Fall of the King*

Week 5: 28.01 Johannes V. Jensen: *The Fall of the King* cont'd & Knut Hamsun: *The Ring is Closed*

Week 6: 04.02 Knut Hamsun: *The Ring is Closed* cont'd

Week 7: 11.02. Karin Boye: *Kallocain*

Week 8: 18.02 Short stories: Karen Blixen: "The Blank Page". TBA

Week 9: Study week. No lecture

Week 10: 04.03 Dag Solstad: *Shyness and Dignity*

Week 11: No lecture

Week 12: 18.03 Per Petterson: *Out Stealing Horses*

Week 13: 25.03 Karl Ove Knausgaard: *My Struggle*

Week 14: 01.04 Helle Helle: *This Should be Written in the Present Tense*

Week 15: 08.04 Jonas Hassen Khemiri: *Everything I Don't Remember*

Week 16: No lecture

Week 17: Easter break. No lecture

Week 18: 29.04 Summary