

Syllabus Fall 2018: SAS2A - 19th Century Scandinavian Literature

Bergen, November 2, 2018

Please note that minor changes may occur.

Course instructors:

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General information:

Lectures: Wednesdays 12.15-14, Room 304A, Sydneshaugen

ECTS: 15

Language of instruction: English (the course requires spoken and written proficiency in English)

Course unit level: Bachelor

Grading scale: A-F

Course description:

When he first issued his passionate call for a socially engaged literature in 1871, the Danish literary critic Georg Brandes came to fundamentally affect several generations of Scandinavian authors. In SAS2A, we will read and discuss major works by a number of the authors writing in the wake of what Brandes termed “the modern breakthrough,” including Henrik Ibsen, August Strindberg, Amalie Skram, J.P. Jacobsen, and Knut Hamsun. In particular, the course will focus on how these writers of the late 19th century came to address questions of gender, sexuality, and morality through their writings.

Novels and plays:

Henrik Ibsen: *A Doll House* and *The Wild Duck*. In: *Ibsen's Selected Plays*, Norton Critical Editions

Amalie Skram: *Fru Inés*, translated by Judith Messick and Katherine Hanson, Norvik Press

Victoria Benedictsson: *Money*, translated by Sarah Death, Norvik Press

Knut Hamsun: *Hunger*, translated by Sverre Lyngstad, intro by Jo Nesbø, afterword by Paul Auster, Canongate

August Strindberg: *Miss Julie* and *A Dream Play*. In: *Strindberg: Five Plays*, translated by Harry G. Carlson, University of California Press

These books can be bought through the university bookstore, Akademika. You are welcome to use other editions of these works instead of those listed above, but please be aware that some of the older translations of Ibsen, Strindberg and Hamsun are quite outdated.

Folk tales, fairy tales and short stories:

Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe: “The Ash Lad who Had an Eating Match with the Troll” and “The Ash Lad and the Good Helpers”. In: *Norwegian Folk Tales*. New York: Pantheon, 1960, pp. 81-83, 170-177. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no

H.C. Andersen: “The Nightingale” [1844] and “The Shadow” [1847]. In: *Stories and Tales*. London and New York: Routledge, 2002, pp. 329-338, 376-388. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no

Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson: "The Father" [1860]. In: *Great Short Stories of the World*, eds. Barrett H. Clark and Maxim Lieber. London: Spring Books, 1964, pp. 776-779.

Litteraturkiosken.uib.no

Arne Garborg: "Youth" [1884]. *WITS 2* (1986), pp. 27-41. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

J.P. Jacobsen: "[Mogens](#)" [1872], transl. Anna Grabow. In: *Mogens and Other Stories* [1882].

Articles and theoretical texts:

Georg Brandes, "[Introduction](#)" [1872], transl. Lynn R. Wilkinson. *PMLA* 132:3 (2017), pp. 696-705.

Knut Hamsun, "From the Unconscious Life of the Mind" [1890]. In: *Knut Hamsun:*

Transgression and Worlding, eds. Ståle Dingstad *et al.* Trondheim: Tapir, 2011, pp. 281-289. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Pat Shaw: "The Norwegian Folk Tales and their Illustrations," from *Norwegian Folk Tales*. New York: Pantheon, 1960, pp. 5-8. Available from Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Elias Bredsdorff: "Moralists versus Immoralists: The Great Battle in Scandinavian Literature in the 1880s." *Scandinavica: International Journal of Scandinavian Studies* 6.1 (1969): 91-111. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Bjørn Hemmer: "[Ibsen and the Realistic Problem Drama](#)". In: *The Cambridge Companion to Ibsen*, ed. James McFarlane. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 68-88.

Joan Templeton: "[The Doll House Backlash: Criticism, Feminism, and Ibsen](#)". *PMLA* 104:1 (1989), pp. 28-40.

James McFarlane: excerpts from the chapter "Norwegian Literature 1860-1910." In: *History of Norwegian Literature*, ed. Harald S. Næss. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993, pp. 107-140, 147-159, 184-194. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

P.M. Mitchell: "Hans Christian Andersen" and excerpts from the chapter "The 'Breakthrough.'" In: *A History of Danish Literature*. New York: American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1958, pp. 150-160, 173-185. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Franco Moretti: "Ibsen and the Spirit of Capitalism." In: *The Bourgeois: Between History and Literature*. London: Verso, 2014, pp. 169-187. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Janet Garton: "Amalie Skram," from *Norwegian Women's Writing 1850-1990*. London: Athlone, 1993, pp. 46-66. Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Sarah Death: "Translator's Afterword". In: Benedictsson's *Money*, pp. 179-186.

Evert Sprinchorn: "The Greater Naturalism" and "Tragic Ends and Means," from *Strindberg as Dramatist*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1982, pp. 22-50.

Litteraturkiosken.uib.no.

Paul Auster: "Afterword: The Art of Hunger". In: Hamsun's *Hunger*, pp. 249-261.

Eszter Szalczler: "[A Modernist Dramaturgy](#)". In: *The Cambridge Companion to August Strindberg*, ed. Michael Robinson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 93-106.

Exams:

There will be a final exam consisting of two parts. The first part is a 7-day take-home exam, counting for 2/3s of the final grade, where you write an essay on a given topic. The second, counting for 1/3s of the final grade, is an oral exam covering the entire course material. Please remember to sign up for the exam early in the semester.

Take-home exam: November 15-22

Oral exam: TBA, week 49 or 50.

Schedule:

Week 34

August 22: Introduction and practical information, historical background on the Scandinavian countries (Anders)

Week 35

August 29: Scandinavian literature prior to "the modern breakthrough" (Oda)

Assigned texts: Folk tales by Asbjørnsen & Moe; Shaw: "The Norwegian Folk Tales and their Illustrations"; fairy tales by Andersen; Mitchell on Andersen (pp. 150-160);

Bjørnson: "The Father"; McFarlane on Bjørnson (pp. 130-140)

Week 36

September 5: Georg Brandes and "the modern breakthrough" (Ole)

Assigned texts: Brandes: "Introduction"; Mitchell: "The 'Breakthrough'" (pp. 173-178); Garborg: "Youth"; McFarlane on Garborg (pp. 155-159); Bredsdorff: "Moralists versus Immoralists"

Week 37

September 12: The modern breakthrough in Danish literature: J.P. Jacobsen (Ole) Assigned texts: Jacobsen: "Mogens"; Mitchell on Jacobsen (pp. 181-185)

Week 38

September 19: The modern breakthrough in Norwegian literature: Henrik Ibsen I (Ole)

Assigned texts: Ibsen: *A Doll House*; McFarlane on Ibsen (pp. 113-130); Hemmer: "Ibsen and the Realistic Problem Drama", Templeton: "The Doll House Backlash"

Week 39 (Ole)

September 26: The modern breakthrough in Norwegian literature: Henrik Ibsen II (Ole)

Assigned texts: Ibsen: *The Wild Duck*; McFarlane on Ibsen (pp. 113-130); Moretti: "Ibsen and the Spirit of Capitalism"

Week 40

October 3: The modern breakthrough in Norwegian literature: Amalie Skram (Ole)

Assigned texts: Skram: *Fru Inés*; Garton: "Amalie Skram"

Week 41

Study week. No lecture

Week 42

October 17: The modern breakthrough in Swedish literature: August Strindberg (Ole)

Assigned texts: Strindberg: *Miss Julie*; Sprinchorn: "The Greater Naturalism" and "Tragic Ends and Means"

Week 43

October 24: The modern breakthrough in Swedish literature: Victoria Benedictsson (Ole)

Assigned texts: Benedictsson: *Money*; Death: "Translator's Afterword"

Week 44

Cancelled lecture. To be rescheduled.

The reaction against the modern breakthrough: Knut Hamsun (Oda)

Assigned texts: Hamsun: *Hunger* and "From the Unconscious Life of the Mind"; McFarlane on Hamsun (pp. 184-194), Auster: "Afterword"

Week 45

November 7: The reaction against the modern breakthrough: Strindberg after the Inferno crisis (Ole)

Assigned texts: Strindberg: *A Dream Play*, Szalczar: "A Modernist Dramaturgy"

Week 46

November 14: Summary (Anders)