

SAS13 Norwegian Culture and History

Course description

Autumn 2014

Course responsible: Eyvind York

This course will give the student an outline of the main aspects of Norwegian culture and history from the Viking age until today. The course has three broad themes, each of which will be the topic of a written assignment. The student will be given written feedback on these and an opportunity to deliver a revised version within prescribed dates (see below).

THEMES

1. Norwegian history from the Vikings to 1814: The development of the Norwegian state

- The territorial and organizational unification of Norway under one monarch, with local and central government, a new political ideology and a new religion (Christianity).
- Norwegian society during the High Middle Ages: Economy, social groups, cities and countryside.
- The demographic crisis in the Late Middle Ages and its consequences for the Norwegian state.
- 1536: The reformation. Norway becomes a province of Denmark.
- Social orders and economic growth during the union with Denmark.
- 1814 – An eventful year: Independence from Denmark, liberal constitutional monarchy, and a new union with Sweden.

2. Norwegian history from 1814 to our own times: Democratization, Modernization and the Welfare-state.

- Political developments: The *embetsmenn*-state and the new regime. Parliamentarianism, union-conflict and independence. Universal suffrage.
- The industrial revolution: Economic, social and demographic consequences.
- The Labour Movement, The Women's Movement and the quest for equality.
- The Second World War: Occupation, resistance and liberation.
- Norway – the reluctant internationalist.
- The development of the welfare-state.
- How Norway became a rich country.

3. Norwegian culture: Equality and inequality

- “Norwegianness”, i.e. what it is to be a Norwegian, has been and still is, highly debatable. Norwegian national consciousness is very much tied up to the countryside, even though most Norwegians live in towns. Norwegian culture in the 19th and early 20th century developed from the dichotomy of the agrarian ideal celebrated in national costumes, paintings, literature and music on the one hand, and the urban reality in which most Norwegians live on the other hand.
- Another important characteristic of “Norwegianness” is the degree to which the social order is built on equality. Egalitarianism is an important part of the Norwegian’s self-perception. To challenge this view, the conceptualizations, values and attitudes towards inequality will be discussed in the lectures at the end of the term.
- Central questions for theme 3: What concepts of equality/inequality are dominant in different phases of history? Where do we find the critical differences that people perceive as important for their social classifications? And how do they change over time?

TEACHING

The course will consist of two lectures a week with a total of 14 lectures during the semester. One of these lectures will be a visit to one of the historical museums Bergen. In addition to this there will be a seminar in connection with each of the three assignments. These will be held the day after the assignments are given to the student where the assignments will be discussed. The assignment questions will be based on the main topics that have been discussed in the lectures and the curriculum.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND FEEDBACK

The student will have one week to write a first draft of each assignment and during this week there will be no lectures. The assignments will be handed in digitally, and the feedback will also be given digitally, on the department’s own system for web based supported learning (Kark). The student will be given an introduction to this system in the first assignment seminar. At the end of the semester the student will have the opportunity to hand in a final version of the three assignments.

CURRICULUM SAS13

Bøker:

Danielsen et al, *Norway: A History from the Vikings to Our Own Times*, Oslo: Scandinavian University Press, 1995 (486 sider)
ISBN: 82-00-21803-1

Maagerø og Simonsen (eds.), *Norway: Society and Culture*, Kristiansand: Portal Books, 2008 (350 sider)
ISBN: 978-82-92712-18-4

Kompendium

- Berg, Roald: "Nation-building, State Structure, and Ethnic Groups: The Scandinavian Samis 1905-1919", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 1995, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 61-70
- Berggren, Brit: "The Female Peasant and the Male Peasant. Division of Labour in Traditional Norway", in *Ethnologica Scandinavica*, 1984, pp. 66-78
- Blom, Ida: "The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in Norway, 1885-1913", in *Scandinavian Journal of History* 1980, vol. 5, pp. 3-22
- Blom, Ida: "Women's Politics and Women in Politics in Norway Since the End of the Nineteenth Century", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 1987, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 17-34
- Eriksen, Anne: "Memory, History and National Identity", in *Ethnologica Europaea* 27:2, 1997, pp.129-137
- Gilje, Nils: "Hans Nielsen Hauge and the spirit of capitalism", in Ragnar Fjelland et al (eds.): *Philosophy beyond borders. An anthology of Norwegian philosophy*, Bergen 1997: SVT Press, pp. 255-269
- Gullestad, Marianne: "The Scandinavian Version of Egalitarian Individualism", in *Ethnologica Scandinavica*, 1991, pp. 3-18
- Jensen, Inger: "Transitions in Women's Lives" in *Ethnologica Scandinavica*, 1992, pp. 67-82
- Lovoll, Odd S.: "The Emigration", in Lovoll, Odd S.: *The Promise of America. A History of the Norwegian-American People*, Minneapolis/London, University of Minnesota Press, 1999, pp. 7-42. ISBN: 0-8166-3350-9
- Mathisen: Stein: "Hegemonic Representations of Sami Culture: From Narratives of Noble Savages to Discourses on Ecological Sami", in Siikala et al. (eds.) *Creating Diversities: Folklore, Religion and Politics of Heritage*, Studia Fennica Folkloristica, 2004, 14, pp. 17-30
- Nagel, Anne-Hilde: "The Development of Citizenship in Norway. Marshall Remodelled" in Sogner, S. and Hagemann, G. (eds.) *Women's*

Politics and Women in Politics: in Honour of Ida Blom, Oslo, pp. 197-217

Nordby, Trond: "State and Nation-building" in Hubbard, W. et al, *Making a Historical Culture. Historiography in Norway*, Oslo, 1995, pp. 181-209

Seip, Anne Lise: "Nation-building Within the Union: Politics, Class and Culture in the Norwegian Nation-State in the Nineteenth Century", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 1995, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 35-50

Østberg, Sissel: "Norwegian-Pakistani adolescents. Negotiating religion, gender, ethnicity and social boundaries", in *Young. Nordic Journal of youth research*, 2003, vol. 11, pp. 161-181

Totalt 250 sider

Digitalt tilgjengeleg på bibsys:

Bjørnson, Øyvind: "The Social Democrats and the Norwegian Welfare State: Some Perspectives", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 2000, vol. 26 no. 3, pp. 197-224

Blom, Ida: "Widows, Widowers and the Construction of the Norwegian Welfare Society, c. 1900-1960s", *Scandinavian Journal of History*, vol. 29 no ¾, 2004, pp. 263-276

Imsen, Steinar: "Communalism and State-building in Norway, 1537-1648", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 1997, vol.22, No.1, pp.21-31

Sandmo, Erling: "The History of Violence in the Nordic Countries: A Case Study", in *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 2000, vol. 25, no ½, pp- 53-68

Totalt 65 sider.

Pensum: 1151 sider.