

**Scand 150 Norwegian Literary and Cultural History
Winter Quarter, 2007**

Prof. Jan Sjøvik

Raitt 305N Phone: 543-0645 (office); (425) 333-4826 (home)

Email: sjavik@u.washington.edu

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm, and by appointment

The purpose of this course is to offer an introduction to the literary and cultural history of Norway, starting with the Enlightenment and carrying through to the present time, but with major emphasis on the second half of the 19th Century. Our focus will be on reading and interpretation of representative literary texts, and these cultural artifacts will be placed in their historical context. Political history will be touched on only briefly and then only as it is necessary to properly situate the works that are studied.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

Learn about the historical development of Norwegian literature/culture:	10 percent
Learn about specific Norwegian literary texts:	60 percent
Develop your ability to analyze texts orally and in writing:	30 percent

Grading:

I will use a point system that will allow you to earn a maximum of 100 points.

Portfolio of short writing assignments:	10 points
Low-stakes paper:	10 points
Midterm exam:	40 points
Final exam:	40 points

You will not be graded on the curve. You can expect the following percentages to translate into the following grades (this is not an exhaustive list of possibilities, but only some examples):

4.0	95 percent	2.7	74 percent
3.7	90 percent	2.4	67 percent
3.4	85 percent	2.0	60 percent
3.0	80 percent		

Portfolio of short writing assignments:

The purpose of these mini-essays is to help solidify your thoughts about one or more texts and to help prepare you to write about them on the midterm and final exams. These mini-essays are intended to be paragraph length pieces that will be written in class and will take approximately seven minutes each. All students will write on the same topic, for example, "Identify a significant textual detail in Terje Stigen's short story 'The Chest' and explain why this textual detail is significant." When all students have finished writing, you will trade papers with a student seated close to you. You will critique that student's paper by pointing out one really good aspect of it as well as, if possible, offering one constructive suggestion for improvement. In order to get full credit (10

points) for the portfolio, you need to hand in the original of all your mini-essays during the last week of instruction. There will be a total of 7-10 such assignments. You may miss one of them and still earn the maximum number of points, but you will be docked one point for each additional essay you miss.

The low-stakes paper:

The paper should be 3-4 pages in length and is intended to give you a chance to practice writing the type of essay you will be asked to write on the midterm and the final (you will get a sheet with detailed instructions later, including a rubric for giving feedback). To get full credit for it, you will need to turn in two copies of the draft, one to me and one to a student seated close to you. This student will be responsible for providing you with a brief peer evaluation of your draft (you will have the same responsibility toward him, her, or another student). This evaluation could consist in mentioning a couple of strong points about your paper and a couple of suggestions for improvement, as well as a specific evaluation according to the feedback rubric. This kind of evaluation is very different from giving the paper a traditional grade; you will not be asked to grade each other's work. You will also get an evaluation from me. Based on my evaluation and the peer evaluation, you will then hand in a revised version of your paper to me (in general, the revisions are likely to be fairly minor). If you complete this process, you will get full credit (10 points) for the paper, but no grade will be given.

The following books have been ordered and are available at the University Book Store:

Ludvig Holberg, Erasmus Montanus

Henning Sehmsdorf, ed., Norwegian Short Stories (only some of them will be read)

Henrik Ibsen, Peer Gynt

Henrik Ibsen, An Enemy of the People, The Wild Duck, Rosmersholm (only The Wild Duck will be read)

Arne Garborg, Weary Men

Knut Hamsun, Hunger and Pan

Ole E. Rølvaag, Giants in the Earth

Dag Solstad, Shyness and Dignity

Jan Sjøvik, Reading for the Truth: Rhetorical Constructions in Norwegian Fiction (optional, but very useful for several texts as well as for the low-stakes paper)

A few additional brief readings will be handed out in class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS:

January 3 W Introduction to the course. A brief discussion of how to read a literary text, based on a consideration of Terje Stigen's short story "The Chest" (handout).

January 8 M (First hour only.) Folklore texts (handout), "The Smith They Didn't Dare Let Into Hell" (Norwegian Short Stories). Introduction to Holberg.

January 10 W Ludvig Holberg, Erasmus Montanus.

January 15 M UW holiday

- January 17 W National Romanticism and rural life: Maurits Hansen, “The Shepherd’s Horn” (handout). Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, “The Father” (Norwegian Short Stories). Introduction to Ibsen.
- January 22 M Henrik Ibsen, Peer Gynt.
- January 24 W Finish Peer Gynt.
- January 29 M Henrik Ibsen, The Wild Duck.
- January 31 W Finish The Wild Duck. Hand in the draft of your low-stakes paper.
- February 5 M Stories from realism and naturalism: Alexander Kielland, “The Spirit of the Ball” and “Karen;” Amalie Skram, “Karen’s Christmas” (all in Norwegian Short Stories). Return the drafts of the low-stakes paper to the students.
- February 7 W Stories from neo-romanticism: Jonas Lie, “The Cormorants of Andvær” (Norwegian Short Stories) and “Isak and the Priest of Brønø” (handout). Review for the midterm exam. Hand in the final version of your low-stakes paper.
- February 12 M (First hour only.) MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- February 14 W Norway’s greatest intellectual: Arne Garborg, Weary Men.
- February 19 M UW holiday
- February 21 W Weary Men, cont. Introduction to Hamsun.
- February 26 M Norway’s greatest novelist: Knut Hamsun, Hunger.
- February 28 W Knut Hamsun, Pan.
- March 4 M A Norwegian who also wrote America’s greatest novel of immigration: Ole E. Rølvaag, Giants in the Earth.
- March 7 W Recent Norwegian literature: Dag Solstad, Shyness and Dignity.
Review for the final exam.
- Final exam: Monday, March 12, 2007, 2:30-4:20 pm in Savery 249.