

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 SCAND 356 B1: Women in Scandinavian Literature and Popular Culture**  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Van Deusen

Time: T R 12:30pm-1:50pm

Office: 316-D Arts and Convocation Hall

Place: T B 81

Telephone: N/A Fax: 780-492-9106

Office Hours: 9:30am-10:30am,

E-mail: vandeuse@ualberta.ca

or by appointment

Personal Website: <https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/about/people-collection/natalie-van-deusen>

Course Website: eClass

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** None

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes  No, not needed

**Community Service Learning** component

Required  Optional  None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

In this course students will study various media (in English translation) that reflect women's lives and voices in Scandinavia from the Middle Ages until the present day, with a special focus on recent contributions by queer and indigenous women writers. The aim of the course is to understand how major historical periods and movements influenced some of the most defining works of Nordic literature about and by women.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to respond to the following questions:

- How can the Scandinavian model for gender equality be viewed in a historical context?
- Did earlier periods pave the way for modern ideas about gender in Scandinavia?
- Can any patterns be identified across historical periods?
- How did different social and religious movements affect how women were portrayed, or how they produced literature/film/music/art?
- What are the major contributions of historically underrepresented (e.g. queer and indigenous) women writers?

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, student presentations, assigned readings, and audiovisual materials, as well as discussion, case studies, and writing.

**Texts:** <sup>1</sup>

- *The Saga of the Völsungs*, trans. Jesse Byock (Penguin Classics, 2000)
- Camilla Collett, *The District Governor's Daughters*, trans. Kirsten Seaver (Norvik Press, 1992)
- Selma Lagerlöf, *The Löwensköld Ring*, trans. Lind Schenck (Norvik Press, 2011)
- Gerd Brantenberg, *Egalia's Daughters* (Seal Press, 2004)
- Niviaq Korneliusen, *Last Night in Nuuk*, trans. Anna Halager (Grove/Atlantic, 2018).
- Electronic readings on eClass

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): N/A

<sup>1</sup> Alternate formats (Kindle, iBooks, etc.) and editions other than the ones specified are acceptable substitutes if you wish to purchase online.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:  
[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations\\_\(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Attendance and in-class participation	15%
Weekly responses*	25%
Midterm exam (February 13, 2020)**	30%
Term Paper/Project (8-10 pages)***	30%

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

\* This course requires that you have access both to the internet and to a University of Alberta email account. Your weekly response will be posted on our discussion board at our class’s eClass site.

You will be asked to write one response per week to the works that we read (starting the second week of classes), for a total of **10 responses in all**. Your response (a half page to one page in length--that is, approximately 250-500 words--once a week) should be posted to our class discussion board before **either** our Tuesday or Thursday class meeting by **no later than 9:30 a.m.** Late submissions will not be given credit (i.e. if you miss a class, you may not comment retrospectively on readings that we have already discussed).

To locate the topics for the discussion board on our eClass webpage, log on to eClass and select our course from the menu; select “Weekly Responses” from the left-hand navigation bar; then select the appropriate topic and date (e.g. “*The Saga of the Völsungs*, Jan. 13”). Then click on “Add a new discussion topic” and post your response. When you are finished, click “Post to forum.”

This list is the place for you to pose questions about the reading, to propose topics that you would like to discuss in class, to say what you liked or didn’t like. Topics for discussion will be suggested prior to each class; you may focus on one of these issues or choose to write on another topic of interest to you if you wish. A good weekly response will do the following:

- mention at least one specific passage from the week’s reading that you would like to discuss in class
- critically analyze the passage (your comment should not just summarize its content or make vague noises about its “importance”)
- relate the week’s reading to other readings or discussions in the course
- be made in a timely fashion
- be grammatically correct and proofread

Responses are graded weekly on a scale of 0-5 points. To receive all 5 points, your response will have sufficiently met all of the above criteria. Our class discussion will be guided by your postings, so please write on something that interests you and that will (hopefully) also interest the rest of us. *Make sure that you print out a copy of your response and bring it to class with you, since you should always assume that you will be asked to elaborate on the points you made prior to class.*

\*\*The structure of the midterm exam will be discussed in class, prior to the exam.

\*\*\*The format of the term paper/final project will be addressed during the second week of classes.

### **Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

#### ***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

#### ***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, attendance is a mandatory assessment component.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in /

presented on the stated deadline / date. Any assignment not delivered in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***Grading:***

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned"

(<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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