

Nordic Studies 2019: Lecture overview and readings

September 10	Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	Course introduction
September 17	Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	Nordic culture and Sino-Nordic Cultural differences
September 24	Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	Discussions on the Nordic welfare model
October 1	<i>NO CLASS</i>	<i>NO CLASS</i>
October 8	Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	International relations of the Nordic countries: NATO, the EU, and the UN
October 15	Susanne Boelt Kristiansen Nordic Centre Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	Sustainable lifestyle in the Nordic region
October 22	Rune Halvorsen OsloMET	Nordic disability policy meeting supranational equal treatment policy
October 29	Arne Bugge Amundsen University of Oslo	Nation Building in the Nordic countries 1800-2000
November 5	Arne Bugge Amundsen University of Oslo	Nations, Religion and Rituals in the Nordic countries 1800-2000
November 12	Johan Lidstrom Umeå University	Entrepreneurship in the Nordic countries
November 19	Magnus Jorem Nordic Centre	Paper-writing workshop
November 26	Norbert Gotz Sodertorn University	Norden as a historical region

December 3	Norbert Gotz Sodertorn University	Civil society in the Nordic region
December 10	Donna Hurford University of Southern Denmark	Different learning cultures: comparing Chinese and Western learning cultures, with a focus on Nordic universities
December 17	Donna Hurford University of Southern Denmark	International students studying at Fudan University: what are their experiences of teaching and learning?

Note on readings: Some of the below texts are freely available online, others will be shared with you. This list will be updated slightly soon; it is mostly complete already.

September 10: Course introduction

Introduction to Nordic Studies 2019, examination form, and specific topics from external lecturers.

No readings.

September 17: Nordic culture and Sino-Nordic cultural differences

The class consists of three parts: The first is an introduction to Nordic culture through ten idiosyncratic and quirky phrases in the different Nordic languages. The second is a lecture on cultural differences between China and the Nordic countries that have a practical impact on work collaboration, particularly within research. The third part consists of two exercises in which the students reflect on cultural differences and similarities.

No readings.

September 24: Discussions on the Nordic welfare model

In this class, we introduce some of the institutions that constitute the Nordic welfare model, including the healthcare system, the education system, and the labor market. The class will discuss and reflect critically on some of these institutions.

Literature:

Axel West Pedersen and Stein Kuhnle (2017), "The Nordic Welfare State Model", ch 9 (pp. 219-238) in Oddbjørn Knutsen (ed.) The Nordic Models in Political Science (Bergen, Fagbokforlaget)

Jostein Gripsrud (2000), "Learning from Experience: Cultural Policies and Cultural Democracy in the 20th Century", International Journal of Cultural Policy, Vol. 7 (2), pp. 197-209.

October 1 (NATIONAL HOLIDAY, NO CLASS, NO READINGS)

October 8: International relations of the Nordic countries: NATO, the EU, and the UN

This class provides an introduction to the international relations of the five Nordic countries, and how they (in different national ways) relate to some key international institutions, with a focus on NATO, the EU, and the UN. The lecture will also introduce various institutions of Nordic collaboration.

Literature:

Grøn, Caroline Howard (2014): Small states seeking influence in the European Commission: opportunities and constraints, University of Copenhagen, Research Consortium, Small States Briefs (3 pages)

http://ams.hi.is/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Small-State-Briefs-5_Gron.pdf

Long, Tom. (2016) Small states, great power? Gaining influence through intrinsic, derivative, and collective power. *International Studies Review*, 19 (2). pp. 185-205.

<http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/92968/1/WRAP-small-states-great-power-Long-2016.pdf>

October 15: Sustainable lifestyle in the Nordic region

A hallmark of the Nordic “brand,” sustainability is an important priority of each of the Nordic governments. But is the Nordic “lifestyle” really sustainable? On the one hand, Nordic people are frontrunners when it comes to habits like recycling, waste-reducing technologies, and green energy sources like windpower. On the other, they are among the world’s biggest consumers per capita of various goods and services, including high-footprint air travel. The class will critically reflect on some of these issues in the context of various environmental challenges.

Literature:

Nordic Council of Ministers (2019). *Nordic Youth as Sustainable Changemakers*. Pp. 7-40

Download at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1331807/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

October 22: Nordic disability policy meeting supranational equal treatment policy

In this lecture Professor Halvorsen will examine how the evolving equal treatment approach is challenging the profile of Nordic disability policy. He will ask whether the adoption of binding disability rights in the Nordic countries will contribute to ensuring the equal treatment, human dignity and autonomy of persons with disabilities. Halvorsen will consider whether the negotiated compromises of organised interests behind the Nordic model will promote or hamper the successful incorporation of the equal treatment legislation stemming from the initiatives of the United Nations and the European Union.

Literature:

Halvorsen, Rune;Waldschmidt, Anne;Hvinden, Bjørn; Klette Bøhler, Kjetil (2017). Diversity and dynamics of disability policy in Europe – an analytical framework. Halvorsen, Rune et al (eds.), *The Changing Disability Policy System: Active Citizenship and Disability in Europe Volume 1*. Chapter 2. Routledge 12-33 (21 pages)

Halvorsen, Rune & Hvinden, Bjørn 2009. Nordic Disability Protection Meeting Supranational Equal Treatment Policy – A Boost for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities? In Aasen, H.S., Halvorsen, R. & da Silva, A.B. (eds.): *Human Rights, Dignity and Autonomy in Health Care and Social Services: Nordic Perspectives*. Belgium: Intersentia, pp. 177-202 (25 pages)

October 29: Nation Building in the Nordic countries 1800-2000

The lecture will focus on how the Nordic countries - with different historical backgrounds and cultures - have constructed themselves as independent nations in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Literature: <http://kultuffe.dk/nordic-identity-between-norden-and-europe>

November 5: Nations, Religion and Rituals in the Nordic countries 1800-2000

The lecture will focus on how the Nordic countries in the 19th and 20th centuries have organized the relationship between religion and state, and how public rituals have been used to visualize this relationship.

Literature: https://www.idunn.no/nordic_journal_of_religion_and_society/2011/02

November 12: Entrepreneurship in the Nordic countries

Description and readings to come

November 19: Paper-writing workshop

Learn more about expectations for the final essay, get tips on how to write a great academic paper, and get feedback on your ideas so far for topic and angle.

November 26: Norden as a historical region

The lecture discusses various ways in which Norden has been conceived as a region, including historical affinities, religious similarities, political culture, welfare regimes, and trans-border cooperation. Limits of and alternatives to the Nordic frame are also addressed.

Norbert Götz, 'Norden: Structures That Do Not Make a Region', *European Review of History* 10 (2003): 323–41. Available at

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1350748032000140822> .

Marja Jalava and Bo Stråth, 'Scandinavia / Norden', in *European Regions and Boundaries: A Conceptual History*, ed. Diana Mishkova and Balázs Trencsényi (New York: Berghahn, 2017), 36–56. Available at <<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/MishkovaEuropean>>,

<https://books.google.se/books?id=c53vDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA36>

December 3: Civil Society in the Nordic countries

The lecture sketches the development of Nordic civil societies over the past two centuries with a focus on current challenges and discussions. A particular focus will be the interaction of civil society organisations in the Nordic region, and their role for Nordic cooperation at large.

Norbert Götz, Heidi Haggrén and Mary Hilson. "Nordic Cooperation in the Voluntary Sector."

Nordic Cooperation: A European Region in Transition. Johan Strang (ed.). London: Routledge, 2016. 49–68. Available at

<<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781315755366/chapters/10.4324/9781315755366-3>>, <<https://books.google.com/books?id=0wQtCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA49>>

Per Selle et al., 'The Scandinavian Organizational Landscape: Extensive and Different', in *Civic Engagement in Scandinavia: Volunteering, Informal Help and Giving in Denmark, Norway and Sweden*, ed. Lars Skov Henriksen, Kristin Strømsnes, and Lars Svedberg (Cham: Springer, 2019), 33–66. Available at <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-98717-0_2>, <https://books.google.se/books?id=njNyDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA32>

December 10: Different learning cultures: comparing Chinese and Western learning cultures, with a focus on Nordic universities

This interactive session will include teacher input on western learning cultures at university, what has led to the current approaches and the challenges for teachers and students. You will be invited to compare these western learning cultures with those at Fudan University and other Chinese universities. This will be followed by a group work activity where you will critically compare stereotypes of western and Chinese learning and social cultures to identify contributory factors and to evaluate their current relevance. After a short break, you will work in groups, to develop guidance for Chinese students planning to study at a Nordic university on how to prepare themselves for a western learning culture.

Literature:

Hattie, J. (2015) 'The Applicability of Visible Learning to Higher Education.' *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*. Vol. 1, No. 1, 79–91

Zhu, C. and Gao, Y. (2012) 'Communication with Chinese International Students: Understanding Chinese International Students' learning difficulties and communication barriers.' Paper presented at the British Educational Research Association Annual Conference, University of Manchester, UK. 4-6 September 2012.

December 17: International students studying at Fudan University: what are their experiences of teaching and learning?

We shall share our research findings, gathered from an international student survey; student focus groups and class observations, on international students' experiences of teaching and learning. This is a current research study co-developed by Yan Ding (Fudan University) and Donna Hurford (University of Southern Denmark). We shall invite you to complete a parallel survey, from your own Fudan student perspective, and to engage in a focus group discussion about being a national or international student at Fudan University. We are particularly interested in developing guidance for university departments on how they can best support and include international students and ascertaining whether Leask and Carroll's (2013) inclusive principles are relevant in a Chinese university setting.

Jæger, K. and Gram, M. (2015) (Self)Confidence or compliance Students' experience of academic quality in study-abroad contexts. *Learning and Teaching*. Vol. 8, Issue 3, Winter 2015: 37–59.

Carroll, J. and Leask, B. (2013) *Good Practice Principles in Practice: Teaching Across Cultures*. International Education Association of Australia.