Active Citizenship in Denmark

Summer 2018, Session 1
Credits: 3
Location: Copenhagen
Major Disciplines: Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology
Faculty Members: Mette Jungersen and Ditte Marie Egebjerg

Course Description
Denmark is renowned for a strong civic society characterized by equality and social trust, but this is never a given. Democracy depends on citizens to actively engage in society. In this course, we discuss civic responsibility, social cohesion, and the importance of active citizenship, and we learn alongside Danish students by visiting a range of Danish højskoler (‘People’s High Schools’) – unique living and learning communities characterized by a high level of engagement and enthusiasm.

Learning Objectives of the Course
The students taking this course will gain insight into:

- the idea of democracy as a way of life
- how social cohesion is instilled in youth through an emphasis on dialogue and conversation in education
- how civic engagement is developed through individual growth
- how the Danish concept of ‘liberal mind’ is reflected in current debates about social cohesion and immigration.

Faculty
Mette Jungersen, mag.art. Russian Studies and Literature, University of Copenhagen
Instructor of Danish Language and Culture and Russian Language at DIS since 2008
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Required Texts
Approach to Teaching

- Discussion based
- Interactive
- Case studies relating to current issues and events
- Hands on approach: Multiple visits to højskoler, grassroots organizations, and local associations

Expectations of the students
Active participation in class is essential for the success of the course. In each meeting, your contribution includes raising questions in relation to the day’s topic and responding to your peers’ contributions. Preparation for class includes close reading of the texts, entries to your blog (to be discussed), and reflection on visits and previous class meetings. In class discussions, you will be asked to refer to specific course materials and course experiences to support your interjections.

Field Studies
This is a course with a strong hands-on approach, with many activities outside the classroom. We will be doing visits to local institutions and organizations, city walks, outside lectures, trips to højskoler, and more. Be prepared to learn and be active outside the classroom as much as in it.

Grading
To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work.

Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engaged participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Academic Regulations
Please make sure to read the Academic Regulations on the DIS website. There you will find regulations on:

- Course Enrollment and Grading
- Attendance
- Coursework, Exams, and Final Grade Reports
Course overview – field trips and activities

Tuesday, May 22
What is a People’s High School? - Visit to Suhrs Højskole in the heart of Copenhagen.
Guest lecture: What is a folk high school – and why do they sing all the time? A short history of nearly everything about the Danish folk high schools by Jonas Moller from The Association of Folk High Schools.
Discussions with international students at Suhrs Højskole followed by communal cooking and dinner.
Reading: Ove Korsgaard, “The Struggle for the People. Five Hundred Years of Danish History in Short” (Excerpt).

Wednesday, May 23
Urban sport and Activism – Visit to Borup People’s High School
We will participate in a traditional morning assembly.
Urban sport event with Danish People’s High School students followed by communal lunch.

Thursday, May 24
Responsibility of the Self in Danish Education – Visit to Borup People’s High School
Communal breakfast with the Danish students followed by traditional morning assembly.
Class sessions with the Danish students.

Friday, May 25
Introduction to oral presentations and paper topics – In class
We will set up groups for your oral presentations and introduce the topics for your final paper.
Each group will visit a school in Copenhagen as part of a mini research project on citizenship education in Danish schools.
Monday, May 28

**Visit to Roskilde Festival People’s High School**

Based on the ideas of the renowned Roskilde Festival and situated right next to the festival area, this People’s High School will innovate the idea of the People’s Highs School while adhering to the traditions of learning inherent in the People’s High School movement.

Guest lecture by Headmaster Jesper Øland.


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Tuesday, May 29

**Democratic Citizenship in Danish schools.**

Independent field trips to schools with a multicultural student population.

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Wednesday, May 30

**Active Political Citizenship at Grundtvig’s People’s High School**

Overnight stay at Grundtvig’s Højskole.

Class discussions and role-plays with Politics students at Grundtvig’s Højskole.

Afternoon: Visit to Frederiksborg Castle lead by historian and professor Ole Vind.

Reading TBA

Dinner and social with the students at Grundtvig’s Højskole

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Thursday, May 31

Communal breakfast followed by traditional morning assembly with students at Grundtvig’s Højskole.

The rest of the day off.

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Friday, June 1

**Oral presentations in class**

Groups will present their conclusions from the visits to selected schools in Copenhagen.

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Monday, June 4

**2-day trip to Funen – Visit to Ollerup Højskole and The Independent Academy for Free Schools**

In cooperation with Danish and international students, we will prepare for the largest festival of democracy in Denmark taking place June 5, Constitution Day, in Ollerup.

Guest lecture by Simon Finnerup.

Tuesday, June 5  Constitution Day in Ollerup
Around 5000 participants will commemorate Danish Constitution Day in Ollerup and you will take part by hosting your own stall at the democracy festival. The day will also include a visit to The Independent Academy for Free School during which you will discuss education for democratic citizenship in Denmark with future teachers at Danish free schools.

Wednesday, June 6  Work on your final papers.

Thursday, June 7  Concluding the course.