Course Introduction
This is an introductory course in which we will explore the fields of gender and sexuality in a Scandinavian context. You will be introduced to various theoretical concepts, as well as current debates and discourses in Scandinavia on issues such as gender equality, Danish liberalism, feminism, LGBT, pornography, prostitution and sex education. Scandinavia is widely considered to be a ‘paradise’ for gender equality and has some of the most liberal laws in Europe on gender and sexuality: lesbian couples from many countries travel to Denmark to receive fertility treatment, Denmark, Norway and Sweden were the first three countries in the world to legally recognize same sex partnerships, and both Scandinavian dads and mums have the right to paid parental leave.

Despite these important legal frameworks, public discourse in Scandinavia continues to reproduce and circulate powerful normative ideas about gender, bodies, sexuality and identity and numbers reveal that the idealized region is not so gender equal after all. Women in Denmark, Finland and Sweden continue to suffer extensively from violence. Norway is Europe’s number one when it comes to equal pay for equal work – and yet women earn a lot less than men. The ability of the health sector and educational institutions to reach boys and men is widely debated, as boys and men risk
being left behind due to gender stereotypes and increased feminization of public services. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to discuss and analyze the differences observed between the United States and Denmark regarding these issues, as well as to question policies, norms and values concerning gender and sexuality.

Learning objectives of the course:

- Develop an understanding of basic theoretical concepts in gender and sexuality studies
- Explore “burning issues” in gender and sexuality both theoretically and in Scandinavian discourse
- Gain a historical and contemporary understanding of feminism
- Focusing on Scandinavia and the US, examine how societies’ construction of gender and sexuality intersects with ethnicity, race, class, age, dis/ability, etc.

Instructor
Ane Krestine Larsen, BA and MA in Communication Studies from Roskilde University (2013) and MA in Human Rights and Democratization from European Inter-University Centre (2012). Ane has been involved with the implementation and evaluation of Danish prostitution policy at the Danish National Center for Social Research (SFI) and has done research on the representation of prostitution and prostitutes in Danish media and policy. Besides a full-time faculty position at DIS, Ane works as a counselor at Sex & Samfund (The Danish Family Planning Association), focusing on gender identity, sexual health and sexuality among youth. Moreover, Ane is connected to Amnesty International as a human rights educator.

Teaching Approach
This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, group work, creative work, field studies, guest lecturers/panels and films. Throughout there will be a strong emphasis on participation and class discussion. Overall, the aim is to create a classroom space characterized by respect and willingness to listen/consider others’ perspectives, where it is safe to explore ideas together and individually.

SAFE SPACE
Please note the class is discussion-based and it is very important we all contribute to creating and maintaining a safe space throughout the semester. Your peers will come from a variety of backgrounds which we seek at using as an added value – be open, curious and respectful during your own and other’s learning process. Remember to challenge ideas, not people.

Evaluation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation - Preparation, and your active participation including student presentations and group work</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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Class Participation
The course heavily emphasizes your own engagement and active participation. Much of the learning in this course is dependent on how much effort you put into your own explorations and research, not least in connection with the different assignments. The evaluation of this component will take into consideration the following aspects:

**Attendance:** attendance in all classes and field studies is mandatory. You are urged to be punctual, particularly where guest lecturers and/or films are concerned. Note that coming late to class will affect your participation grade.

**Preparation:** preparation for each lecture is a course requirement. See reading list included in this syllabus. Please be aware that there may be slight changes in the reading assignments during the course and various handouts will also be distributed, but you will be provided with ample time to properly prepare.

**Participation:** active participation in all class sessions is required, and forms an important part of your grade for this component. Participation should preferably reflect your critical capacities and knowledge of the course material. The aim should be to contribute constructively to forwarding meaningful, relevant dialogue and discussion among the group; in practice, this means that expression of one’s personal views should be backed up by references to pertinent readings, materials, etc. and that other viewpoints should be considered in a respectful manner. Note the rubric for participation grades in blackboard, which is a tool for you to understand what good participation includes.

Computers and phones are NOT allowed in class unless specifically agreed with Ane. You are therefore NOT allowed to keep your phone on the table throughout class. You are expected to take notes throughout the semester in a notebook which you yourself are responsible of getting before the course begins (cheap ones are available in e.g. TIGER). Please do not leave jackets and bags on the table throughout class – you are not going anywhere for the next 80 minutes anyway and we need the space to work.

Please be aware that failure to comply with these rules will negatively affect your participation grade.

**Academic Honesty**
DIS expects that you abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of “F” and can result in dismissal and your home university will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. Much plagiarism happens because students are not aware that they had to cite a text or idea. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.
Class Representatives and Comfort Groups
In the beginning of the semester two class representatives will be elected. The class reps will meet the course instructor twice during the semester and are responsible for providing feedback and ideas for improvement. Moreover, the class will be divided into comfort groups (3 people). Your comfort group is meant to be a help with practical questions and note taking if you are ill as well as a safe space for discussions and peer reviews. Please make use of these two institutions throughout the semester.

Written Assignments
Written assignments are a significant component of your learning process and grade. Ane will be available for guidance but it is extremely important you make use of your peers as well. As part of the assignments you are expected to participate and contribute fully to peer review processes. Remember to always respect the deadline, hard copy/email policy as well as word limit. Unless stated otherwise, written assignments are to be handed in hard copy in the instructor mailbox in Vestergade 7, second floor (Gender and Sexuality Department).

STUDENT INPUT
In the beginning of the course you will be divided into groups (two students per group). Each group will be responsible for a session throughout the semester. On your allocated class, you will get the first ten minutes to provide your peers with input that is relevant to the theme of the day. You are expected to integrate the day’s reading, which should form the basis of discussion - and thereby make sure the class is doing the readings. You are welcome to use video clips, examples of campaigns and exercises to make the time as interactive as possible.

Two days before (no later than 20:00) you are expected to submit a one-page reflection (per group) about what elements of the readings you want to focus on and what you plan to do in class the next day. Please note that the student input counts for 15 % of your final grade. When grading, there will be an emphasis on the quality of your reflection – i.e. demonstrating you understand the readings and have an overview of the essential plus how you facilitate your time in class.

Disability and resource statement: Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Academic Support (acadsupp@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor’s note.
Course Plan:

**THEME I – CONCEPTUALIZING GENDER & SEXUALITY**

**Friday January 20th**  
(Session 1)  
**Introduction – Why Study Gender and Sexuality?**  
We will discuss learning expectations, go through the different themes of the course and practical formalities. You will be asked to introduce yourself and your reason for studying Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia to get an idea of how your different backgrounds can contribute positively to the learning process.  
*Readings: the syllabus*

**Tuesday January 24th**  
(Session 2)  
**What is Gender?**  
From a social constructivism viewpoint, gender is not a natural, static identity but is understood as a construct influenced by history, cultural norms and context. How can we understand gender as something we do, rather than something we are?  
*Readings:*
- The Gender Bread Person Version 3.3. (figure)

**Friday January 27th**  
(Session 3)  
**Exploring Sexuality**  
We will discuss the complexity of sexuality and how it is related to understandings of gender, power and (national) identity.  
*Readings:*
- Puglsey, Samamntha, ‘I Waited Untill My Wedding Night to Loose my Virginity and Wish I Hadn’t’  

**Tuesday January 31st**  
(Session 4)  
**Studying Masculinities**  
An introduction to the field of critical studies of men and masculinities. What makes a “man”? What is hegemonic masculinity and how can we understand different masculinities? Are masculine ideals different in Scandinavia and the US?
Readings:

**Friday February 3rd**
(Session 5)

**Heteronormativity**
How is heteronormativity regulating and policing gender? How is heteronormativity part of societal institutions?

Workshop on hegemonic discourses on gender and sexuality norms.

Readings:
- Ingraham, Chrys, ‘One is Not Born a Bride’

-------------------------- CORE COURSE WEEK --------------------------

**Tuesday February 14th**
(Session 6)

**Intersectionality**
What is intersectionality and how can we conceptualize the relationship between different power dynamics and forms of discrimination?

Readings:

**Friday February 17th**
(Session 7)

**GUESTLECTURER – TBC**

**THEME II – POLITICIZING GENDER EQUALITY**

**Tuesday February 21st**
(Session 8)

**Historical and Contemporary Feminism**
What is feminism and is it still relevant? We will go through the different waves of feminism and look at feminism from a Scandinavian perspective.

Readings:
- Watch debate on feminism in Denmark vs. Sweden: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5ETiMA8OQw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5ETiMA8OQw)

**Wednesday February 22nd**

**FIELD STUDY – 13:00-17:00**

**Wednesday February 22nd**

NB: evening event – BLUS PANEL 18:00-20:00, HUSET
Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia | DIS

(Session 9)  
Friday February 24th
(Session 10)

Workshop – Gender Equality in Scandinavia
Scandinavia as a region is very much idealized when it comes to gender equality and by many perceived as being pioneer countries. Moreover, liberalism and tolerance is a strong national narrative if you ask the Nordic population. What are the policies that promote gender equality? And are we really so equal?
NB: Bring computers to class this day to prepare presentation!

---------------------------- TRAVEL BREAK / LONG STUDY TOUR -----------------------------

Tuesday March 7th
(Session 11)

Student Presentations - Scandinavian Perspectives
Group presentations – you will be divided into groups and present information about gender equality in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. Questions to address are: how is gender equality part of the country’s narrative? Examples of women-friendly policies? Main challenges to gender equality?

Friday March 10th
(Session 12)

The Culture of Motherhood
How has motherhood been conceptualized historically? What does feminism say about motherhood – and how does parenthood challenge women’s liberation struggle? We will explore motherhood as a socially constructed identity and discuss how the female body and fertility is a site for political battles. 
Readings TBA

Tuesday March 14th
(Session 13)

Gender and Sexuality as a Human Rights Issue
How are human rights related to gender and sexuality? How can a human rights discourse promote issues related to freedom of bodies, gender and sexual expression?
Readings:
  - Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
  - Sexual Rights: An IPPF Declaration

Friday March 17th
(Session 14)

Group Presentations
Based on your personal interests you will be divided into groups and explore HR / GS issues.

---------------------------- TRAVEL BREAK / LONG STUDY TOUR -----------------------------

THEME II – SPACES OF SEXUALITY

Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia | DIS
Tuesday March 28th  
(Session 15)  
Guest lecturer – TBC

Friday March 31st  
(Session 16)  
**Debating Sex Ed**
How is sexual education shaping norms related to gender and sexuality? What is the value of sex ed – and what are the arguments for avoiding a comprehensive sex ed approach? Why is teaching sex a political matter?

*Readings:*
- Irvine, Janice, ‘Politics of Sex Education’
- Google US law/policies on sex ed in your state

Tuesday April 4th  
(Session 17)  
**“Naked”**
We will watch and discuss the Danish documentary ‘Naked’ about the famous Danish porn actress Denice Klarskov. How much freedom is there in porn? What happens when to gender and sexuality when sex is commodified?

*Readings:*

Wednesday April 5th  
(Session 18)  
**Guest lecturer TBA - Please note it’s a Wednesday**

Friday April 7th  
(Session 19)  
**Pornography – Suppressive or Empowering?**
What is porn and how is porn a reflection of a particular culture? How is porn influenced by policy – and can it be related to gender equality?

*Readings:*

Tuesday April 11th  
(Session 20)  
**Prostitution in the Nordic Countries**
Sweden is world famous for progressive policies on prostitution which has inspired all Scandinavian countries but Denmark to criminalize the purchase of sex. What caused this development in the Nordic countries and what is the status of prostitution today? How is prostitution policy related to feminism and how can we understand sexuality in relation to prostitution?

*Readings TBA*

-------------------------- TRAVEL BREAK --------------------------
Tuesday April 18th  
(Session 21)  
Student Debate – The Sex Industry  
More information will be provided in class

Wednesday April 19th  
(Field Study)  
*** GENDER BENDER ***  
Note that this is an evening event. All the students from the Gender and Sexuality Program at DIS will meet to transform our genders and learn some burlesque! More details will be given in class.  
Readings:  

Friday April 21st  
(Session 22)  
Workshop on Final Assignment  
More information will be provided in class.

Tuesday April 25th  
(Session 23)  
Final Class  
Final discussion and wrap up of the semester

Deadline – Semester Paper May 2nd

Useful resources:
www.kvinfo.dk (Danish Centre for Information on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity)  
http://koensforskning.soc.ku.dk/english/ (Copenhagen University: Coordination for Gender Research)  
www.sexogsamfund.dk (Danish Family Planning Organization)  
www.lige.dk (Danish Ministry for Gender Equality)  
www.lgbt.dk (Association of Gays and Lesbians in Denmark)  
http://www.dis.dk/study-abroad-students/library/database/ (DIS library database of journals)  
https://kvinfo.bibits.no/pls/bookit4/pkg_www_misc.print_index?in_user_id=opac-k-e (Kvinfo library’s database: good for finding academic journals related to course - you can also send them an email: bibliotek@kvinfo.dk)