

Danish Language and Culture Section CDD 125 Spring 2017

Tuesday and Friday 8:30-9:50 | Classroom 10-A14 | Credits 3

*Denmark seen from a foreign land looks but like a grain of sand.
Denmark as we Danes conceive it is so big you won't believe it.*
- Piet Hein (1905-96)

Course instructor

Camilla Kirchhoff, Cand.mag. in Danish from University of Copenhagen, 2007, Master of Danish as Second Language, 2014, and cellist from Royal Academy of Music Aarhus, 1988. Editor at Society for Danish Language and Literature 2009-10. Teacher in Danish language and culture at Copenhagen Language Center 2010-2015, and in music at Hvidovre School of Music 2000-. Teaches 3 Danish Language and Culture classes at DIS. With DIS since 2015. Office Hours will be scheduled with students individually.

DIS contacts

Suzanne da Cunha Bang, DLC Program Director
Anna Sommer, Assistant Program Director

Course description

When studying the Danish language, we will employ a functional approach. Hence, the course will focus on spoken everyday Danish and enable you to have short basic conversations with Danes. The text book used is DIS DANSK I

We will also study Danish culture – or rather, the different configurations of Danish culture. We will operate with a complex view on culture and therefore process different representations of Denmark and Danish national identities rather than trying to find a fixed essence. Hence, the focus will be on dominant national narratives and symbolism, which we will approach from both a historical and modern perspective.

The course will explore how language serves as an opener to culture. The language itself and the interactional conventions and etiquette reveal something of the values and worldviews that form everyday life in a community and how we perceive others and ourselves. By analyzing keywords and concepts and applying appropriate etiquette while using the language, you learn how to navigate in a foreign culture.

An important component of the course will be your own observations and critical analysis of what you are experiencing. There will be a strong focus on intercultural awareness and reflection through a comparative approach. We will use Copenhagen and Denmark as an extended classroom and discuss current key issues and events in Denmark.

Learning objectives of the course is for you to

- Acquire a fundamental knowledge and understanding of cultural theory and method.
- Acquire a basic knowledge about Danish culture(s).

- Be able to approach another culture analytically with tools to analyze everyday life critically.
- Appropriate a comparative lens, so you will also obtain a new understanding of your own background.
- Know enough Danish to live among Danes without feeling linguistically isolated.
- Be able to engage in basic everyday conversations with the locals, while applying the proper cultural sensitivities relevant to Danish society.
- Get the experience of being well-informed and perceptive residents in Denmark.

Approach to teaching and what is expected of students

The ambition is to create a classroom culture in which everyone feels at ease trying to pronounce the unfamiliar Danish sounds and words, a classroom atmosphere where students feel safe and confident to bring to class personal observations, reflections, experiences etc.; to share, analyze and discuss.

The hope and expectation is that we will have interesting and stimulating class discussions.

Course requirements & exams

Semester Project (40% of course grade)

Cultural Assignment 1 (group assignment 10%): *Getting to know Denmark – Copenhagen*.

Hand out January 20. Due February 3.

Cultural Assignment 2 (individual assignment 30%): *Different aspects of Danish culture*

Hand out March 7. Due April 21.

Oral Exam (20% of course grade)

The oral exam will take place during class on Friday, April 28. and Tuesday, May 2.

Written Exam (20% of course grade)

The written exam will take place during finals week, May 8. through 11. (TBA)

Engaged participation (10% of course grade)

Participation is graded because it is part of the learning process. You are required to participate actively in all class activities throughout the semester. Attendance in all classes and field studies is required and expected and is not credited as participation. If you miss a class, please note that it is your own responsibility to catch up.

Quizzes (10% of course grade)

Your progress will be monitored regularly, for instance, through the use of quizzes.

Field Studies

We have three Field Studies in this class. The purpose of the Field Studies is to use Copenhagen as our extended DIS classroom. Material covered during these sessions will be included in quizzes and final exams. Missing a Field Study will impact your participation grade.

*Please note, that failure to show up for the quizzes and exams or submit assignments on time for any other reason than illness or family emergency will automatically result in a Z. You will not be admitted to the exam room if you arrive late.

Course material

Required language material

Textbook: *DIS DANSK I*

Podcasts

On Canvas, you can find podcasts that you can use to practice vocabulary, phrases, and pronunciation. In the textbook DIS DANSK, they are marked with a little headphone symbol. The podcasts can be found on Canvas under Danish Language Resources, Modules.

Ordbogen.com

DIS has a subscription to Ordbogen, a Danish-English/English-Danish online dictionary. Go to <http://www.ordbogen.com/> and enter the e-mail address that you have registered with DIS. This e-mail address serves as both your username and password

Required readings

Alexander, J. Sandahl, *Authenticity*, The Danish way of Parenting, Ehrhorn Hummer 2014

Andersen, Hans Christian, *Denmark My Native Land*,

http://andersen.sdu.dk/rundtom/borge/danmark_e.html

Andersen, Hans Christian, *Clod Hans*, The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories, First Anchor Books Edition 1983

Andersen, Victor, *Denmark – An Overview*, Factsheet Denmark, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2010

De Mylius, Johan, Hans Christian Andersen – A Short Biographical Introduction, H.C. Andersen Centret, andersen.sdu.dk/liv/biografi/index_e.htm

Grundtvig, N.F.S., *Far higher mountains are in other lands found*, Easter Flower! What would you here? Syddansk Universitetsforlag 2013

Holberg, Ludvig, *Erasmus Montanus*, Comedies by Holberg, Project Gutenberg,

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/webbin/gutbook/lookup?num=5749>

Jespersen, Knud J.V., *The Church and Culture*, A History of Denmark 2004/2011

Jespersen, Knud J.V., *The church and the Welfare State*, A History of Denmark 2004/2011

Kingsley, Patrick, *The Immigrant's Dilemma*, How to be Danish, Short Books 2012

Kingsley, Patrick, *Work Well, Play Well*, How to be Danish, Short Books 2012

Kierkegaard, Søren, *Either Or*, Penguin Books, 1992/2004

Lidegaard, Bo, *Prologue 1849-1901*, A Short History of Denmark in the 20th Century, Gyldendal 2009

Leynaud, *Danish Prison*, <http://www.nopenguins.com/danish-open-prison>

Malthe-Bruun, Kim, Last Letters, *Modern Danish Authors*, SPC 1946

Renee, *A Brief Explanation of the Controversial Film Movement Dogme 95*,

<http://nofilmschool.com/2014/02/explanation-of-the-controversial-film-movement-dogme-95-by-co-creator-lars-von-trier>

Reiter et. al, *Denmark doesn't treat its prisoners as prisoners*,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/02/02/denmark-doesnt-treat-its-prisoners-like-prisoners-and-its-good-for-everyone/>

Stræde, Therkel, *October 1943*, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1993

Tinggaard Svendsen, Gert, *From Ice Age to Welfare*, Trust, Aarhus Universitet 2014

Online sources

Grundtvig: Interview with Clay Warren, author of an extensive biography about Grundtvig: The

School for Life: N.F.S. Grundtvig on the Education for the People

(<https://www.amazon.com/School-Life-Grundtvig-Education-English/dp/8771240020>)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy2f4RnStlg>

Kids Gone Wild: Documentary produced by Journeyman Pictures, a leading independent supplier of award winning stories. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_2NIhXrjIQ

Kierkegaard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtlwWMJILBA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9JCwKx558o>

JAILBIRD: Documentary by Kelsey Pudloski, writer and video producer for BuzzBuzz News.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZzQI0SuYYE>

Trust: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6BzIIYfIzE>

What is a Folk High School? : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfR-Tpd_W1M

Continue learning outside the classroom

You are expected to continue learning outside of the classroom. Download the app [duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com) in order to gain a larger vocabulary. Keep informed about what is going on in Denmark - it is expected that you will read the Danish news in English (and in Danish), gain a basic knowledge of Danish political and societal structures, and explore Danish culture on your own through movies, TV-shows, literature, and various cultural events offered in Copenhagen (and elsewhere).

Terms & conditions

Disabilities

If you are in need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Academic Support 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 Office of Academic Support 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 you might need to provide a doctor's note. Being late to class will also have a negative impact on your final grade.

Academic Honesty

DIS expects that students 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. The students' home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the *Academic Handbook* for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Classroom etiquette

Use of laptop computers in class is allowed for the purpose of note-taking only. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and stored away.

Important dates

Field Study 1: Visit to a Danish Gymnasium, Wednesday, January 25. 13:00-17:00

Field study 2: Historical visit to Dragør, Wednesday, March 29. 8:30-12:30

Field Study Social: Visit to The Royal Opera, Thursday, February 2. 20:00-22:00

Semester project (Cultural Assignment 1): February 3.

Semester project (Cultural Assignment 2): April 21.

Oral Exam: during class on Friday, April 28. and Tuesday, May 2.

Written Exam: Finals Week, May 8. through May 11. (TBA)

Generally, in the CDD classes we will work with the Danish language to support you as much as possible in interacting with the children according to your special needs. Taking a starting point in your practicum we will share and discuss your experiences and you will receive a small compendium with useful words and phrases. You will even get to know simple Danish songs, rhymes and games for teaching and playing in schools and kindergartens.

Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible

Day to day Schedule

Lesson 1: Friday, January 20.

Introduction to Danish Language and Culture.

Learning Objectives: To comprehend the extent of the course and to be introduced to the linguistic and cultural learning objectives.

Your first words in Danish.

Assignment 1 hand out.

DIS DANSK Chapter 1.

Lesson 2: Tuesday, January 24.

Danish Education and Upbringing – Grundtvig’s view on education and the folk high school

Learning objectives: To understand and discuss the influence of the Danish pioneer within education, N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), and his impact on Danish mindset.

Reading:

Jespersen, *The Church and Culture* (Compendium)

N.F.S. Grundtvig, *Far higher mountains are in other lands found* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 1.

Field Study 1: Wednesday, January 25.

13.00-17.00 Visit to Danish Gymnasium.

Learning objectives: Understanding the Danish educational system, being young in Denmark, Danish phenomena as gap year, efterskole and højskole.

Lesson 3: Friday, January 27.

Danish Education and Upbringing – The Danish educational system.

Learning objectives: To reflect on the differences between the Danish and the US educational system and what the consequences of dept-free higher education might be for the society.

Readings:

Kingsley, *How to be Danish, Work Well, Play Well* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 2.

Lesson 4: Tuesday, January 31.

Danish Education and Upbringing – The Danish Way of Parenting.

Learning objectives: To discuss and compare children’s upbringing in Denmark and the US, and to reflect on differences and consequences.

Readings:

Jessica Alexander and Iben Dissing Sandahl, *The Danish Way of Parenting, Authenticity* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 2.

Evening Field Study: Thursday, February 2.

Cultural Event 20:00: Opera2Go, The Royal Danish Opera

Learning objectives: To experience some of the most popular and beloved opera hits being performed by top singers together with The Royal Danish Orchestra, the world's oldest orchestra dating back to 1448, in beautiful surroundings at the new Royal Opera House (2005).

Adress: The Royal Danish Opera House, Ekvipagemestervej 10, 1438 Copenhagen K

Lesson 5: Friday, February 3.

Presentation Assignment 1.

SHORT TOUR/CORE COURSE WEEK

Lesson 6: Tuesday, February 14.

Great Danes – Ludvig Holberg

Learning objectives: To get an introduction to the Danish Age of Enlightenment through the eyes of the writer and historian, Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754)

Readings:

Ludvig Holberg, *Erasmus Montanus*, Act 4, p. 1-9 (on Canvas).

DIS DANSK Chapter 3.

Lesson 7: Friday, February 17.

Great Danes – Introduction to H.C. Andersen.

Learning objectives: To be introduced to the most famous Danish writer, his life and work, and to discuss his impact on Danish culture and self-perception.

Readings:

I Danmark er jeg født/Denmark, My Native Land
(Compendium)

Mylius, *Hans Christian Andersen – A Short Biographical Introduction* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 3.

Lesson 8: Tuesday, February 21.

Great Danes – H.C. Andersen.

Learning objectives: To be introduced to important traits of Andersen's work and discuss how his fairytales are still relevant to people of today.

Reading: H.C. Andersen, *Clod Hans* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 4 (p.24).

Lesson 9: Friday, February 24.

Great Danes – Søren Kierkegaard – 'father' of existentialism.

Learning objectives: To get an introduction to the philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard (1813-55), and to one of his most famous works.

Readings:

Kierkegaard, *Either Or* (Compendium)

Quiz 1

LONG TOUR 1

Lesson 10: Tuesday, March 7.

Danish Democracy and the Welfare State – Foundation of the Danish democracy.

Learning objectives: To understand and discuss the historical development of the Danish democracy.

Reading:

Lidegaard, *Prologue 1849-1901* (Compendium)

Assignment 2 hand out.

DIS DANSK Chapter 4.

Lesson 11: Friday, March 10.

Danish Democracy and the Welfare State – The Danish Model of the Welfare State.

Learning objectives: To understand and discuss the development of the Danish welfare state, its main features, characteristics and issues of today.

Reading:

Jespersen, *Democracy and the Welfare State 1848-2000* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 4.

Lesson 12: Tuesday, March 14.

Danish Democracy and the Welfare State – The Danish Prison System.

Learning objectives: To be introduced to the Danish Open Prison System and to discuss the carrot or stick approach in regards of recidivism and rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

Readings:

Reiter et. al, *Denmark doesn't treat its prisoners as prisoners*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/02/02/denmark-doesnt-treat-its-prisoners-like-prisoners-and-its-good-for-everyone/>

Leynaud, *Danish Prison*

<http://www.nopenquins.com/danish-open-prison>

DIS DANSK Chapter 5.

Lesson 13: Friday, March 17.

Danish Democracy and the Welfare State – The Concept of Trust.

Learning objectives: To reflect on how and why the concept of trust is important in the welfare state.

Readings:

Tinggaard Svendsen, *Trust* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 5.

LONG TOUR 2

Lesson 14: Tuesday, March 28.

Denmark in WW2

Learning objectives: To understand and discuss the special dilemmas Denmark faced during WW2 as a result of Nazi-Germany's so called peaceful occupation

Readings: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *October 1943* (Compendium)

Kim Malthe-Bruun, *Last two letters* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 6.

Field Study 2: Wednesday, March 29.

8.30-12.30 A trip through Dragør to the time of WW2.

Learning Objectives: To come close to the dramatic events of the rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943.

Lesson 15: Friday, March 31.

Denmark in WW2 – The Rescue of the Danish Jews 1943 with a perspective to the refugee crisis today.

Learning objectives: To discuss the circumstances of the rescue of the Danish Jews to Sweden in 1943 with a perspective to the current refugee crises in Europe.

Readings:

Kingsley, *Being Danish: The Immigrant's Dilemma* (Compendium)

DIS DANSK Chapter 6.

Lesson 16: Tuesday, April 4.

Danish Cultural Life – Film

Learning objectives: To be introduced to the concept of the Film Movement Dogme 95 and a perspective to modern Danish films and actors.

Readings:

Renee, *A Brief Explanation of the Controversial Film Movement Dogme 95*

<http://nofilmschool.com/2014/02/explanation-of-the-controversial-film-movement-dogme-95-by-co-creator-lars-von-trier>

DIS DANSK Chapter 7.

Lesson 17: Friday, April 7.

Danish Cultural Life – Music

Learning objectives: To be introduced to Danish music from classical composers to modern pop artists.

DIS DANSK Chapter 7.

Lesson 18: Tuesday, April 11.

Danish Cultural Life – Folklore: Danish traditions, dances and songs

Learning objectives: To introduce and reflect on the Danish 'national mind' by experiencing old, but still living traditions.

Quiz 2

TRAVEL BREAK

Lesson 19: Tuesday, April 18.

Modern Denmark – From the Royal House to Christiania.

Learning objectives: To discuss different images of 'Danishness'. How can a traditional monarchy and a half-anarchistic 'Free Town' exist/co-exist in a modern democracy?

DIS DANSK Chapter 8.

Lesson 20: Friday, April 21.

Modern Denmark – A Perspective to the US.

Learning objectives: To discuss differences between Denmark and the US based on your observations and reflections during your Study Abroad semester.

DIS DANSK Chapter 8.

Delivery of Cultural Assignment 2.

Lesson 21: Tuesday, April 25.

Wrap-up and preparation for oral exam.

Lesson 22: Friday, April 28.

Oral Exam.

Lesson 23: Tuesday, May 2.

Oral Exam.

Written Exam: Finals Week

(May 8 through 11).