**DANISH POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

Spring 2017
Copenhagen
3 Credits

**Disciplines:** International Relations, Political Science, Sociology

**Instructor:** Martin Rasmussen
**Program Director:** Neringa Vendelbo
**Program Assistant:** Alex Berlin

**Meeting Time:** Monday/Thursday, 13:15-14.35
**Meeting Place:** F24-503

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**Course Description:**
Denmark has a population of 5.5 million people and is often characterized as a homogeneous society, where “few have too much and even fewer have too little.” At first glance, you would expect a small, stable nation-state to have a limited number of internal conflicts and, consequently, to be rather simple for a social scientist to analyze and categorize. But Danish politics and society are in fact quite complex: Why does the Danish parliament consist of no less than 8 parties? How can a parliamentary system function with almost permanently minority governments? What’s left and right in Danish politics, and where is the center? Why do Danes act the way they do, and how do you break the code? Are the Danish political values still Danish, and what was the background leading up to and after “the Cartoon Crisis” and the terrorist attack in February 2015? Why does it seem that the welfare state is quite efficient in the globalized competition in spite of increasing challenges of high taxes, large public expenditures, and the need to provide the services the public demands? Why does Danish society have such difficulties dealing with immigration? Why are Danes “reluctant” Europeans, and what is the background for recent years’ activist Danish foreign policy?

**Objectives:**
The objectives of this course are to primarily provide students with a broad-ranging and systematic knowledge of Danish politics and society. Furthermore, the course will not only give students knowledge about Denmark and the ability to understand the Danish case, the course will also enable students to compare and analyze other countries, political systems, and societal phenomena.

Martin Rasmussen

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MA (Russian and History, University of Copenhagen 2004, graduated on Civil-Military relations in Russia, 1993-99). Associate professor at the Royal Danish Officer Academy (2011- ), Senior Advisor NordGEN at the Nordic Council of Ministers 2005-2009 on Russia and the CIS, Exchange Student, Odessa (Ukraine), and St. Petersburg (1996-1997), Associate Professor Nordic Council of Ministers Petrozavodsk State University 1998. Various positions as translator and as leader on many visits to Russia by Danish and foreign students and tourist groups as well as on several battlefield tours. Lectures to the general public as well as an analyst on Russian matters in Danish news media. With DIS since 2015. Also DIS-classes on Espionage during the Cold War, terrorism and counterterrorism and EU-US relations.
Content:
The course is organized around six themes:
1. Introduction and Danish history – a brief overview
2. Danish values, culture and national identity
3. Politics in Denmark – political history, political system and parties
4. The Welfare State
5. Contemporary issues in Danish politics and society
6. Denmark’s international relations

Format and course requirements:
The course is taught as a combination of lectures, manual simulations, guest lectures, field studies, and student presentations. There is a strong emphasis on dialogue and student participation. Most classes will start with an update, analysis and discussion on recent events in Danish politics and society. Everyone is expected not only to have done the assigned readings for each class, but also to contribute to the discussion. Expect the unexpected and the content of individual classes can change to accommodate developments in political and societal affairs.

Active participation includes speaking up in class as well as taking an active part in group work, manual simulations and presentations. Attendance at all lectures and field studies is mandatory. Note that it’s important to check your e-mail and the DIS Canvas regularly since outlines, exam info etc. will be distributed here.

It’s important that you keep up with current Danish affairs. Therefore, it’s highly recommended to read the Copenhagen Post each week. The paper contains Danish news in English, and is published on Fridays. You will find it in the DIS library as well as on the internet.

Field Studies:
- Wednesday, 22 February, 08.30-12.30 – Visit to the Parliament. Guided tour and a short meeting with an MP. Meet at the front desk in Vesteregade 7 at 08.30. Then we will walk to the Parliament.
- Wednesday, 19 April 13.00-17.00 Visit to the Copenhagen Town Hall (Københavns Rådhus) Introduction to “The infrastructure and traffic planning of Copenhagen” and meeting with senior Civic officials/the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen.

Guest lectures:
There will be four guest speakers in the course. Please see the detailed schedule for credentials, topics and exact dates.

Written assignments (see guidelines attached to this syllabus):
- One hour-long midterm exam
- One two-hour final exam on Wednesday, 10 May December in room V-23 301 from 15.00-17.00.

Grading elements:
- Midterm exam 25%
- Manual simulations and student presentations 25%
- Final exam incl. essay 30%
- Participation 20%

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

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.

Disability and resource statement:
Any student who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Office of Academic Support (acadsupp@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive such accommodation, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodation within the first two weeks of classes.

Academic Honesty:
Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment
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 electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Use of computers, iPhones, cell phones etc. in class:
Computers and iPhones are allowed in class PURELY for note taking purposes. In case of other uses such as Facebook, emails or internet surfing, it will have a negative impact on your participation grade. Cell phones are to be shut off during class and texting/SMS’ing etc. during class will have a negative impact on your participation grade.

Useful resources:
Besides the DIS library and the Royal Danish Library on Gøthersgade 140, you can find a lot of useful information online. Some relevant websites are:

www.denmark.dk - Denmark’s official website with all kinds of statistics, government information, links, etc.
www.ft.dk - The Danish Parliament’s official website, with links to all political parties. (English site: http://www.thedanishparliament.dk/)
www.um.dk - The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. (English site: http://um.dk/en)
**Schedule**

Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible. Also check canvas for online access to texts, interviews, documentaries etc.

**Theme 1: Introduction & Danish history – a brief overview**

This theme is a political, historic, and sociological introduction to Danish society. The objective is to raise the student’s awareness of the underlying reasons why certain issues are currently on the political agenda and defining contemporary Danish society. We will start by asking the question of why we should study Denmark, and then move on to a more factual presentation of Denmark in terms of its social characteristics, demographics, economy and history.

1. **Thursday, 19 January:**
   **Introduction & Denmark before 1900**

   Introduction to the course, presentation of the syllabus, and discussion of Denmark as an object of academic study. What makes Denmark unique and what is to be gained from studying Danish politics and society? A brief overview of Danish history before 1900 with a special focus on the Danish constitution of 1849 and the role of the national defeat in the 1864-war. The Danish “tribe” and the Danish tradition of peaceful transformations.

   **Read:**
   - Textbook 1: (Denmark: A Big Small State – The Peasant Roots of Danish Modernity)
   - Textbook 2: Knud J.V. Jespersen: A history of Denmark:
     - Ch. 1, pp. 1-11 (Introduction to Denmark and the Danes)
     - Ch. 4, pp. 64-78 (From constitution to parliamentarism)

2. **Monday, 23 January:**
   **Denmark after 1900**

   In this period Denmark has grown from an agrarian economy to a rich, modern industrial society with a highly developed welfare state. The process of change continues as Denmark develops towards an international information society. What was Denmark’s role in World War II? How did Denmark become a leading welfare state? How was the economic crisis in the 1970s and 1980s followed by the status as the economic superstar of Europe at the turn of the millennium and one of the strongest and most competitive economies in the world? And what has been the impact of the global economic crisis and the refuge crisis?

   **Read:**
   - Textbook 1: (Denmark: A Big Small State....)
   - Textbook 2: Knud J.V. Jespersen: *A History of Denmark*:
     - Ch. 4, pp. 78-90 (The century of Social Democracy and welfare)
Theme 2: Danish Values, Culture, and National Identity

This section deals with the elusive concepts of values, culture and national identity in a Danish context. What are generic Danish values and what is Danish culture? Do all Danes share the same values and what is the impact of these values on Danish politics and society?

3. Thursday, 26 January:

Dialogue & Compromise

Introduction to Danish values and culture. What are the core Danish values and how did they emerge? A special focus on the Danish tradition for dialogue and compromise – perhaps a necessary strategy for a small country in a strategic position between strong neighboring countries? What if such compromises are not possible?

Read:

- Textbook 2: Knud J.V. Jespersen: A History of Denmark, Ch. 8, pp. 200-216 (Danishness from 19th century till today)
- Nathaniel Hong, “Occupied- Denmark’s Adaptation and resistance to German Occupation 1940-1945”, pp. 252-268.
- On reserve in the library: Steven M. Borish: The Land of the Living: The Danish Folk High Schools and Denmark’s Non-Violent Path to Modernization, Nevada: Blue Dolphin 1991. Ch.8 “Hygge and the Art of Celebration” (pp. 264-80),
- Compendium: “The Copenhagen Consensus…”

Manual simulation 1:
“When compromise is not an option” – a manual simulation approach in class.

4. Monday, 30 January:

Equal Opportunities & Tolerance

The citizens of Denmark have the highest level of economic equality in the world. What is the ideological and psychological background for this political priority? We will discuss both the positive and negative consequences of the Danish egalitarianism. How is the traditional Danish tolerance defined?

Read:

- On reserve in the library: Steven M. Borish: The Land of the Living: The Danish Folk High Schools and Denmark’s Non-Violent Path to Modernization, Nevada: Blue Dolphin 1991. Ch.6 : “Democracy and Egalitarianism” (pp. 209-39), Ch.7 :“Balance and Moderation” (pp. 240-63),
- Compendium: “The Jante Law”

Recommended supplementary reading:
Steven M. Borish: The Land of the Living: The Danish Folk High Schools and Denmark’s Non-Violent Path to Modernization, Nevada: Blue Dolphin 1991. Ch.10 “Through a Glass Darkly: A Counter-perspective on Danish National Character” (pp. 314-43),

Class rep elections in class today.
Theme 3: Danish Politics – Parties and Party System

This theme introduces the key aspects of the Danish political process. Firstly, the legal and institutional setting of Danish politics. Secondly, the political parties and their different roles in Danish politics are examined. Thirdly, we look at how Danes vote and how the political culture and foundation have changed over the past 30-40 years. Central concepts in the Danish political system such as “the working multi-party system,” “negative parliamentarism” and “consensus democracy” will be defined along with general political science phenomena like “new politics” and “right-wing populism”.

5. Thursday, 2 February:
Danish Democracy
Introduction to the constitutional framework of the Danish party system and its effect on the number of parties. What characterizes a constitutional monarchy, how does a parliamentary system differ from a presidential system of government, and how is the decision-making process in the Danish parliament?

Read:
• Compendium: “The Political System”

Student presentations

Short Study Tour Break & Core Course Week
6 February – 11 February

6. Monday, 13 February:
Political Parties in Denmark (1/2)
Briefing on the ideological and political views of the parties currently represented in the Danish parliament. What are the political and ideological backgrounds of each party? Parties and nomination processes are very different in Denmark and the United States. We will take a closer look at the organizational characteristics of the Danish parties and how they have developed over time.

Student presentations

7. Thursday, 16 February:
Political Parties in Denmark (2/2)
We continue the briefing on the ideological and political views of the parties represented in the Danish parliament. Which ideological dimensions are present in Danish politics today and how are the political parties positioned? Introduction to “New Politics” and new “post-materialistic” values.

Student presentations
8. **Monday, 20 February:**

**Right-wing Populism and the New Centre**

After the ending of the Cold War Denmark has experienced roughly the same political currents as the rest of Western Europe: New Politics, right-wing populism, modernization of social democratism, strong movements against internationalization, European integration and immigrants. The Danish “Earthquake Election” in 1973 sent shock waves through all the European party systems. Why did it happen and what were the long-term effects? What were the consequences of the change of government and a new right majority block after the general election in 2001? How is it today after the new centre-right government took office in September 2015? The impact of the refugee crisis and rising EU-skepticism.

Read:

- Compendium: “Explaining the Emergence of Radical Right-Wing Populist Parties: The Case of Denmark”

**Wednesday, 22, February, 08:30-12:30. Field Study**

Visit to The Parliament (“Folketinget”).

Introduction and guided tour and meeting with Danish MP.

Meeting point: DIS front desk at 08:30. We will walk from there.

9. **Thursday, 23 February:**

**Midterm Exam**

A one-hour test in class covering the first half of the semester.

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**Long Study Tour Break 1 & Travel Break**

25 February – 5 March

10. **Monday, 6 March:**

**The Danish Model: Policy-Making and the Role of Organized Interests**

“The Danish Model” of policy-making is characterized by negotiation, compromise, and consensus – how does it work and what is the role of organized interests. Political segmentation and policy networks. Corporatism is a form of social organization in which the key economic, political and social decisions are negotiated and made by the state in collaboration with labor and business interests. Is Denmark corporatist? How government, employers’ associations, and trade unions interact to create policy in Denmark.

Read:

- Textbook 1, Ch. 6: (Corporatism and Beyond: The Negotiated Economy)

“Yes minister - Realities for a civic servant in the political engine room” Guest lecture by Thomas Roed Thorsen, Ministry of Finance (ret.)
Theme 4: The Welfare State

In this theme we will analyze one of the most prominent – and debated – features of modern Denmark: The welfare state and the concept of “Flexicurity”. Firstly, we will define exactly what is a welfare state and go into a more detailed analysis of the many issues – historical, political, social, and economic – related to the welfare state. Secondly, we will look at the Danish labor movement and examine the Danish tradition of amicable relations between government, industry and labor and the important role, which the latter two play in the policy-making process – a structure that has contributed to the expansion of the welfare state.

Later in the course we shall return to the welfare state several times. When we look at contemporary issues in Denmark it will become apparent that many current issues are intertwined with the welfare state and, in particular, with the question of whether this system is able to respond to the challenges Danish society presently faces.

11. Thursday, 9 March:
Theory and History of the Welfare State
Introduction to the welfare state in general. What is a welfare state? What does the term welfare mean? What does the state do which the market or civil society do not do – or cannot do? Different ways of securing welfare.

Read:

See also:
- Binder: “The Scandinavian Welfare Model in Crisis?”
- Binder: “Nordic welfare, results and problems”

12. Monday, 13 March:
The Danish Welfare State
A closer look at the Danish welfare state. The Danish welfare state was founded in the beginning of the 20th century. What has the rapid development of the Danish welfare since the 1960s resulted in? The Danish concept of “Flexicurity” – the key to success. Which specific services are provided by the welfare state?

Read:
- Binder: “The Copenhagen Consensus..”

See also:
- Textbook 2: Knud J.V. Jespersen: A History of Denmark:  Ch. 4, pp. 76-82 (The Danish welfare model)
- Textbook 1, Ch. 9: (How Can It Possibly Fly...)
- Textbook 1, Ch. 10: (Welfare Reform...)
13. Thursday, 16 March:
Political Economy of the Welfare State
A theoretical analysis of incentives and political-economic mechanisms in a welfare system (positive and negative incentives for the citizens). The structural challenges for the future development of the welfare state. Denmark and other Western European countries have ageing populations. At the same time, there are demands for a shorter workweek, longer maternity leave and early retirement. How can the Danish welfare system overcome these challenges? And what has been the impact of the global economic crisis?

Read:

See also:
- On reserve in the library: Erik Albæk et al., *Crisis, Miracles, and Beyond. Negotiated adaptation of the Danish Welfare State*, pp. 146-170 (Public Expenditures..)
- Compendium: “Welfare Model in Crisis” – CURSORY READING

Long Study Tour 2 & Travel break
18 March-26 March

Theme 5: Contemporary Issues in Danish Politics and Society

Apart from the welfare debate, which issues were on the domestic political agenda in 2005? Immigration and integration, improving education, and fighting crime, are some of the hottest national political issues in Denmark. We will look and simulate some of these issues to see in what direction Danish society is moving.

14. Monday, 27 March:
Immigration and refugees - Denmark. Tough asylum policy and restrictive immigration rules?
Integration and Multi-Culturalism
The present refugee crisis has been the most severe challenge to Denmark and Europe. New nationalism end anti-EU reactions in member states. Everybody competes to protect their own borders. More restrictive policies to scare refugees for coming, ex. Confiscation of money and other valuable things.
What history does Denmark have in receiving immigrants? How have Danish immigration laws changed in recent years? What role do international conventions play? Where do the Danish parties stand on immigration?

What are the consequences of other ethnic groups settling in Denmark? What is the current situation? What are the main social, economic and cultural problems/potentials connected to immigration in a Danish context? What arguments and possible solutions are being put forward? Where do the Danish parties stand on integration? The impact on the welfare state?
Read:
- Textbook 1, Ch. 12: (More Than Kin and Less Than Kind…)
- Compendium: “Cultural racism: something rotten in the state of Denmark?”
- Compendium: “Danish Realism and Swedish Naivism?”
- Compendium: “Immigrants and refugees in Scandinavia”

15. Thursday, 30 March: 
   “The Cartoon Crisis”
   The dark side of the homogeneous Danish society is strong ambivalence or even hostility towards excellence, differences and strong individuality. As society grows more heterogeneous, it is questionable if Danish core values apply to all Danes. The dilemma of tolerance: How should the Danes balance between its tradition for liberal tolerance and discarding apparent intolerance from some groups of immigrants? The background and consequences of “the Cartoon Crisis”.

   Reading (background for simulation):
   - Compendium: “The Danish Ugly Duckling and the Mohammed Cartoons”
   - Compendium: “Cultural racism: something rotten in the state of Denmark?”

   Manual simulation 2
   “Beyond cartoons – a manual simulation approach to crisis handling in a compromise democracy”

16. Monday, 3 April:
   Health Care in Denmark
   The Danish health care system is characterized by a dominant public involvement and financing. Health care is free and tax financed as a general rule. We will look into how it is organized and how it works and what are the major challenges.

   Guest lecture: Sigurd Lauridsen, COWI Consult, Copenhagen

17. Thursday, 6 April:
   Educational system in Denmark
   The Danish educational system reflects core values of Danish society such as egalitarianism and dialogue. We will look into how this publicly financed education sector is organized and how it has developed compared to other countries. The quality of Danish education is intensely debated. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this system compared to other countries and systems?

18. Monday, 10 April:
**Environment and climate change**
Denmark has been on the forefront in environment policy and protection. During the oil crisis in the 1970s state programs were set up to transform Denmark from fossil energy to sustainable energy, especially windmills. Denmark is going green and the aim is to be total fossil free in 2050.

**Guest Lecturer:** Birgit Munck-Kampmann, Director, Copenhagen Resource Institute

**Travel break**
12 April - 17 April

**Theme 6: Denmark’s International Relations**
How do small states survive in a world of dominant powers? Denmark has been coping with this problem for centuries with some success. How has Denmark maneuvered on the scene of international politics and what are the foreign policy options for a small state? Firstly, we will try to understand why Denmark has displayed ambivalent sentiment towards the European Union and European integration. Secondly, Denmark’s place in the international community and the Danish foreign policy tradition is discussed.

19. Thursday, 20 April:
**The Four Circles of Danish Foreign Policy**
The historical and strategic background for current Danish foreign policy: The Nordic, the Global, the Atlantic, and the European circle. Denmark’s political and military role in NATO and the UN. The relationship between Denmark and the USA. Denmark’s position in the recent Iraq war and current post-war situation.

20. Monday, 24 April:
**Denmark and the EU**
Introduction to the peculiar relationship between Denmark and the European Union. Denmark has been a member of the EU for more than 30 years, but Danish EU-referendums have made clear the huge divide in the Danish population regarding the EU. A divide which has resulted in a series of Danish opt-outs, including a no-vote to the single currency (Euro). Why do the Danes seem negative towards “deeper” integration but positive towards “broader” integration? What are the challenges and likely development for the EU and how will that affect Denmark?

Read:
- Textbook1, Ch. 11: (Denmark in the Process of European Integration...)
- Compendium: “Danish Euro-skepticism..”

21. Thursday, 27 April:
**From neutrality towards an adaptive alliance policy to an activist foreign policy**
Danish activist foreign policy – its basis development and impact

**Guest lecture:** Peter Viggo Jakobsen, The Danish Defense Academy & University of Copenhagen
21. Monday, 1 May

**Wrap-up, Q&A before Final Exam**
We will try to achieve a coherent overview of the entire semester. The most important points of the semester are repeated and put into a joint perspective. Also questions from the students before Final Exam.

22. Final Exam: May 10th 15.00-17.00 V23-301
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook:

- Ch. 6: Pedersen, Ove K.: “Corporatism and Beyond: The Negotiated Economy”, pp. 245-270
- Ch. 10: Abramson, Peter: “Welfare Reform: Renewal or Deviation?”, pp. 356-374
- Ch. 11: Kelstrup, Morten: “Denmark in the Process of European Integration: Dilemmas, Problems, and Perspectives”, pp. 375-397

- Ch. 1: “Introduction: What is Denmark and who are the Danes?”, pp. 1-11
- Ch. 4: “Domestic Policy, 1848-2000: Democracy and the Welfare State”, pp. 64-88,
- Ch. 5: “The Church and Culture from Luther to Postmodernism”, pp. 112-123,
- Ch. 8: “The Danes – a Tribe or a Nation”, pp. 208-231.

On reserve in the library

Steven M. Borish: The Land of the Living: The Danish Folk High Schools and Denmark’s Non-Violent Path to Modernization, Nevada: Blue Dolphin 1991
- Ch.6 : “Democracy and Egalitarianism” (pp. 209-39),
- Ch.7 : “Balance and Moderation” (pp. 240-63),
- Ch.8 “Hygge and the Art of Celebration” (pp. 264-80),
- Ch.10 “Through a Glass Darkly: A Counter-perspective on Danish National Character” (pp. 314-43),

Richard Jenkins, Being Danish. Paradoxes of Identity in Everyday Life, Copenhagen, 2011
- Ch. 12 “Being Danish in the twenty-first century” (pp. 289-311)

Denmark and the Holocaust, ed. Mette Bastholm Jensen & Steven L.B. Jensen, IIS, Denmark, 2003


• Andersen, Jørgen Goul: “Public Support for the Danish Welfare state. Interests and Values, Institutions and Performance”, pp. 75-

• Christiansen, Peter Munk: “Public Expenditures. Is the Welfare State Manageable?” pp. 146-170


**Compendium etc.**


• Hong, Nathaniel “Occupied- Denmarks Adaptation and resistance to German Occupation 1940-1945”, pp. 252-268., Published 2012. (on canvas)


• Sandemose, Aksel: “Janteloven (The Jante Law): The Danish Mentality?”, from: A Refugee Crosses His Tracks, 1933. (in the course compendium).

• Sørensen, Catharina, “Love me, love me not…. A typology of public euroscepticism”.SEI working Paper No. 101, Sussex 2008. (in the course compendium)


Canvas


• Factsheet Denmark, Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, www.um.dk:
MIDTERM STUDY GUIDE

The maximum score is 100 points.

A: Factual questions (worth 40 points)
10 short answer questions on some of the key facts and concepts in the readings/discussed in class.
Example: “Name all the parties in the Danish Parliament” or “When was parliamentarism introduced in Denmark?”

B: Essay questions (worth 60 points)
Three analytical questions on central topics or features of Danish politics.
Example: “Describe the Danish tradition for dialogue and compromise. Discuss its influence on the Danish conduct in World War II.”

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Your answers
When answering the factual questions it is important to be precise. When answering the essay-type questions it is important that you give discursive and analytical answers using relevant arguments.

Topics and readings
So far we have covered 3 topics in class:
1. Danish history
2. The political system – parties and party system
3. Danish values, culture and national identity

The midterm exam includes elements from all 3 topics. All notes from class and all articles are helpful.
FINAL EXAM, STUDY GUIDE

Danish Politics & Society
Spring 2017
Instructor: Martin C. Rasmussen

Format
The final exam consist of two factual, one multiple choice, and four essay sections.

The factual section A consists of 5 questions covering more issues, and the factual section B consists of 5 question covering one specific field. Both sections need short, exact answers (Names, years, definitions etc.).

The five multiple choice questions in section C is each about finding the one correct description among three options.

The essay sections D-F covers several topics. Answer 1 (ONE) of these sections in essay form. Make sure to support your answers by using arguments from relevant articles and discussions in class. For many of the questions there might be more than one “right” answer. Make sure not simply to give one answer, but discuss different possibilities in a short and precise way.

Content
The topics covered during this course are to a large extent interrelated and the final exam is cumulative.

The factual questions cover both halves of the semester fairly equal and the essay questions mainly take their off-spring in the last half of the semester. But to do well, it’s imperative to know all the topics of the course and to be able to incorporate facts and discussions from all parts of the semester.

All compulsory reading should be consulted but the content from class, handouts, and special lectures are perhaps even more important (if you have been absent it might be a good idea to borrow notes from a classmate).