Scandinavian Crime Fiction
Stockholm
European Humanities 3-credit course
Semester: Fall 2016
Time: Mondays & Thursdays 10:05 – 11:25
Classroom: 1E-509
Instructor: Janis Granger
Related Disciplines: English, Literature, Comparative Literature

Description of course:
Since the publication of Stieg Larsson's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo over a decade ago, Scandinavian Crime Fiction has taken the world by storm. In the novels the most fantastic murders take place, vile secrets are exposed and the postcard perfection of the Scandinavian Welfare States is shown to have a dark side.
This course will provide students with an understanding of this genre with an emphasis on Swedish Crime Fiction from the works of Sjöwal/Wahlöö to Stieg Larsson's The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo to the Swedish Queen of Crime Fiction, Liza Marklund. We will also analyze crime fiction from the other Scandinavian countries to see why this genre remains so popular.

Instructor: Janis Granger
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Office Hours: by appointment or before/after class
Course Format:
The course will consist of close readings, discussion and written analysis of four Scandinavian crime novels. We will view movies based on crime fiction novels as well as see examples of popular Scandinavian TV crime series.
Class meetings, will be, for the most part, divided into two sections. The first part of each class will be of lecture format where keywords and concepts are introduced. During the second part, we will discuss and analyze the novel or TV series assigned for the day (and when relevant chapters of the textbooks assigned) relating it/them to the themes of the course.

We will be reading four crime fiction novels representing the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Iceland and Sweden). There will be introductions to the genre of crime fiction, to the Scandinavian countries and the concept of the Welfare State as well as the themes for Scandinavian crime fiction (social identity and social realism, gender, nature, the environment, etc.). As a class, we will read Stieg Larsson’s “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” Jo Nesbø’s “The Snowman,” Arnaldur Indridason’s “Jar City,” and Liza Marklund’s “The Bomber.” We will be viewing and studying some Danish TV crime series and movies based on the novels we have read. There will be theoretical readings to enhance our understanding of the genre.

Learning objectives of the course:
In this course, students will become perceptive readers of crime fiction and criticism. Students will explore concepts such as national identity, social criticism, gender, etc. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

• Identify and distinguish themes, types, styles and influences in Scandinavian crime fiction
• Acquire a vocabulary for analysis of crime fiction and Scandinavian crime fiction in particular, including literary as well as cultural terms
• Gain an understanding of Scandinavian – and especially Swedish - society today as mirrored in crime fiction
• Develop critical skills: to think analytically, to voice criticism through argumentation
• Improve writing skills

Expectations of the student:
I expect you to have done the reading for each class and to come with notes and questions for discussions. You should refer to the texts and readings, whenever possible, to support your queries and ideas. If you are shy about speaking up in class, you are welcome to email me your questions and comments. I expect students to be engaged as much as possible. You cannot be engaged if you have not read the novels/articles.

Approach to Teaching
I am enthusiastic about crime fiction and Scandinavia. I bring this enthusiasm to class. Even though there will be some lecturing to give you background information, I hope that we can explore the realm of Scandinavian crime fiction together. I want to learn from you, too. I would like to explore ideas – as I hope you will also bring your concepts into the discussions and ask questions. Except for the introductory lectures to the genre and to the different Scandinavian countries, I hope to create a good atmosphere where students feel comfortable about contributing and discussing openly, respecting each other’s point of view.
Practical Matters/Classroom Policies:
Students are expected to be on time to class. If students miss multiple classes, it will affect their engagement grade. Allowances, of course, will be made in case of illness but missing too many classes without cause may result in the student being referred to Director of Teaching & Learning and/or Director of Student Affairs.

Laptops may be used for note taking. Please wait until the break or time before and after class to check email, Facebook and check and send text messages. If surfing the internet or text messaging becomes a problem, laptops and cell phones will be banned from the classroom.

No eating in the classroom. Students are, of course, allowed to bring water, coffee or tea but eating of meals during class is not allowed. Students may consume lunch or a snack at the break. In addition, bathroom visits should also be limited to before or after class – or during the break.

Disability and Accommodations:
Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Mark Peters (mpe@disstockholm.se) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform me of the approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Expectations of the student:
I expect you to have done the reading for each class and to come with notes and questions for discussions. You should refer to the texts and readings, whenever possible, to support your queries and ideas. If you are shy about speaking up in class, you are welcome to email me your questions and comments. I expect students to be engaged as much as possible. You cannot be engaged if you have not read the novels/articles.

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Field studies:
- October 5 morning: Walking tour of Stockholm: In the Footsteps of Lisbeth Salander
- November 9 afternoon: Viewing of episodes from Danish TV crime series
Evaluation:
In order to receive a passing grade, you must complete all the assignments.

- Engagement 15%
- Midterm 20%
- Short Analysis I 15%
- Short Analysis II 15%
- Final Paper 35%

Engagement is your responsibility and thereby you help determine your grade. You should consider how often you join in class discussion, make comments or ask questions. How many absences do you have over the course of the semester? Do you complete all the assigned readings on time? If you expect an “A” for the engagement grade, you should be making comments and asking questions in almost every class.

Description of Assignments:
Written assignments should have a title, be double-spaced, 12 font with approximately 300 words per page. Students may refer to “The MLA Handbook or a writing manual from their home universities. Just be consistent when using citations, footnoting, etc.

Short Analysis I: Due Monday, September 26
Students will write a short analysis on a topic or theme we have discussed. The analysis should be 3 to 4 pages in length, 12 font and approximately 300 words per page with one-inch margins. Remember to give your analysis a title! You pick an issue or theme that interests you and pursue it. Be sure you have a thesis. You do NOT have to use outside sources for this paper.

Your analysis should include the following:
1. Introduction: presentation of the topic to be investigated and a brief overview of what you will be doing in your paper (i.e. exploring a specific theme or using of specific theory for example the “10 Commandments” or exploring one of the keywords in relation to the novel(s)
2. Analysis: comments, discussions, comparisons
3. Summary & conclusion

Midterm: Thursday, October 6 in class
The midterm will cover the articles and books we have read during the first half of the semester, the keywords we have learned and class lectures. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions (of keywords, concepts, terminology relevant to crime fiction and Scandinavian crime fiction); short answer questions to be answered in bullet points and two essay questions (you will be given several questions to choose from).

Short Analysis II: Due November 14
Students will write a short analysis on a topic or theme we have discussed. The analysis should be 3 to 4 pages in length, 12 font and approximately 300 words per page with one-inch margins. See details (above) under Short Analysis I.
Final Paper or Final Exam: Paper due at last class/Final Exam date & time TBA

For this paper, you may choose to do one of the following:

- An academic paper (7-8 pages) on a theme of your choice. (for example, applying one of the keywords/concepts to novel(s) we have read; using one or two of the 10 Commandments of Scandinavian crime fiction – exploring the murderer as a victim; the impact of the Social Welfare State; portrayal of female detectives; gender-roles/feminism; use of crime fiction formula, etc.). Follow the outline above. Your paper MUST have a title, 300 words per page, one-inch margins, 12 font. Two outside sources.

- A re-writing of Analysis II, expanding on the original topic, taking into account comments given on the original paper or I. Must be 8-9 pages in length. If you choose this option, you can extend your original paper by revising your thesis, broadening your comparisons and further qualifying your arguments by using two outside sources.

- For both options, follow the outline under the Short Analysis I but be sure to list your sources either in a separate bibliography or in footnotes

- Final Exam – students can choose to write an essay type final exam. The exam will be posted for a certain time period on Canvas. Students will have a choice of essay questions. Two questions must be answered for 50% each. Exam then submitted through Canvas.
Course Schedule

1) Thu. Aug. 25
   Introduction to the Course. Brief History of the Genre
   Crime Fiction Terminology
   **Keywords:** genre, setting, red herring; victim
   **Readings:**
   Please bring the textbook, “The Crime Fiction Handbook” to class

2) Mon. Aug. 29
   Golden Age of Crime Fiction; The Crime Fiction Formula
   Introduction to the Genre cont’d
   **Keywords:** Golden Age, Whodunit, hard-boiled, amateur, genius detectives
   **Readings:**
   Please bring the textbook, “The Crime Fiction Handbook” to class

3) Thu. Sept. 1
   Scandinavian Crime Fiction: Background
   **Keywords:** The Welfare State, Social Democracy, police procedural, social criticism
   **Readings:**
   Please bring the textbook “Scandinavian Crime Fiction” to class
   From the textbook “Scandinavian Crime Fiction,” edited by Nestingen & Arvas:
   “Introduction: Contemporary Scandinavian Crime Fiction,” by Nestingen & Arvas: pages 1-17
   From the textbook “The Crime Fiction Handbook,” Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö pages 176-186

4) Mon. Sept. 5
   **Sweden & Swedish Crime Fiction**
   Guest Lecture by Anna Cavallin
   **Reading:**
   From the textbook “Swedish Crime Fiction: The Making of Nordic Noir,” pages 11-50

5) Thu. Sept. 8
   Introduction to “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”
   **Keywords:** Sweden, The Swedish Model, Olaf Palme
   **Reading:**
   Stieg Larsson’s “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” pages 1-172

**Core Course Week September 12 – September 17**
6) Mon. Sept. 19  
**Sweden Cont’d: Swedish Masculinity & Scandinavian Feminism/Femi-Krimi**  
**Keywords:** Body, Gender Equality  
**Reading:**  
Stieg Larsson’s “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” pages 173-342  
10 Commandments of Femi-Krimi posted on Canvas

7) Thu. Sept. 22  
**“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”**  
**Keywords:** Secrets, Corruption, Violence against women  
**Readings:**  
Larsson’s “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” pages 343-554

8) Mon. Sept. 26  
**First Analysis due!**  
**Viewing of first half** the US movie version of “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”  
**Reading:** from textbook “Swedish Crime Fiction,” pages 121-132

9) Thu. Sept. 29  
**Viewing of 2nd half** of the “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”

10) Mon. Oct. 3  
**Comparison of movie vs. novel; summation of 1st part of course**

FS) Wed. Oct 5  
**Walking tour of Mikael Blomkvist’s and Lisbeth Salander’s Stockholm**  
Meet at 10am in our classroom  
Walking tour will last approx. 2 hours

11) Thu. Oct. 6  
**Midterm in class**

**Program Study Tours October 8 – October 16**

12) Mon. Oct. 17  
**Norway: Skis, Mountains and Serial Killers**  
**Keywords:** Loss of Innocence, “Norwegianess”  
**Readings:**  
Jo Nesbo’s “The Snowman,” pp. 3-115

13) Thu. Oct. 20  
**Norway Cont’d and Discussion of “The Snowman”**  
**Keywords:** Detective/ family; gender  
**Readings:**  
Jo Nesbo’s “The Snowman,” pp. 119-294

14) Mon. Oct. 24  
**Norway Cont’d and Discussion of “The Snowman”**  
**Keywords:** genetics, sins of mothers  
**Reading:**  
Jo Nesbo’s “The Snowman,” pp. 297-550
15) Thu. Oct. 27 Viewing of “Headhunters,” thriller based on a novel by Jo Nesbø

Travel Break October 29 – November 6

16) Mon. Nov. 7 Introduction Iceland and crime fiction
Keywords: national identity, who’s your daddy?
Readings:
Arnaldur Indridason “Jar City,” pages 3-109
From the textbook “Scandinavian Crime Fiction,” edited by Nestingen & Arvas:

FS Wed. Nov. 9 Denmark, Danish Crime Fiction & TV Series
Meet in our classroom at 1:00pm
Reading on Canvas: article from the New Yorker “Danish Postmodern”

17) Thu. Nov. 10 Iceland cont’d
Arnaldur Indridason “Jar City,” pages 110-237

18) Mon. Nov. 14 Second Analysis Due!
Arnaldur Indridason “Jar City,” pages 238-338
Summation of Icelandic crime fiction and Arnaldur Indridason’s “Jar City”

19) Thu. Nov. 17 Viewing of Icelandic movie “Jar City”
Reading: On Canvas: “A typical Icelandic Murder?”

20) Mon. Nov. 21 Introduction to Swedish Queens of Crime Fiction
Keywords: Femi-krimi; gender-political; work/life balance
Reading: “The Bomber” pages 7-171
Plus from our textbook, “Swedish Crime Fiction,” pages 69-81

Short Travel Break November 22 – November 27

21) Mon. Nov. 28 Reading: “The Bomber” pages 175-292

22) Thu. Dec. 1 Reading: “The Bomber” pages 295-413

Summation of the Course
Final Paper due!
**Required texts:**
Articles posted on Canvas

**Reference Reading:**
Munt, Sally Rowena, Murder by the Book: Feminism and the Crime Novel, London: Routledge, 1994
Nordisk Litteratur/Nordic Literature (2001) bilingual articles on development of crime fiction in the Nordic Countries

**Articles in English** about specific Scandinavian Crime Fiction novels and the genre in general can been found in the journal “Scandinavian Studies” (published by Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies) which can be accessed online