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MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
MANKATO

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES *College of Humanities and Social Sciences*

OVERVIEW

We are the only public university in Minnesota offering a major in Scandinavian Studies. The Scandinavian Studies Program offers students an opportunity to combine Norwegian or Swedish languages with study of the greater Nordic cultural region. It provides students with a familiarity of Scandinavian heritage and history. And it prepares students to live and work in any of the Scandinavian countries—Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland.

Norwegian is the ideal language to learn to be able to understand the other Scandinavian languages of Swedish and Danish. Scandinavian Studies is a very flexible major that complements a variety of interests and skills.

Courses Offered:

Elementary and intermediate instruction is offered in Norwegian language. A variety of Scandinavian Studies courses are offered in English: Introduction to the Nordic Countries, Vikings and Norse Mythology, Scandinavian Crime Fiction, Scandinavian Film, and Special Topics. Recent Special Topics courses have included: Hans Christian Andersen; Nordic Explorers; Scandinavian Literature of Madness, Confinement and Exile; and Scandinavian Children's Literature. Through an agreement with Gustavus Adolphus College, students may also study Swedish. Upper-level Norwegian courses may be offered periodically. Pre-approved study abroad courses may also be used toward the major and minor.

DEGREES & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Degrees:

Scandinavian Studies, Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Scandinavian Studies, Minor

Careers:

Most students who choose to major in a language offered at Minnesota State University, Mankato are double majors in other fields, including Communications Studies, Business, International Relations, Computer Science, the Humanities and many more. In many cases, they have chosen to do so because their future professional or academic plans include goals that require advanced linguistic and cultural proficiency.

Scandinavian Studies opens up student opportunities to live and work in Scandinavia or to work for Scandinavian companies elsewhere in the world. Major companies based in Scandinavia operate in industries ranging from natural resource extraction to manufacturing, technology, and finance.

Like other disciplines in the humanities, Scandinavian Studies provides the opportunity to engage with literature, culture, and history in ways that strengthen communication and writing skills.

QUALITY OF OUR DEPARTMENT

Faculty:

The Department of World Languages and Cultures has eight full-time faculty with degrees from major universities in the United States and Europe. The number of graduate assistants teaching classes varies.

Faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures are teachers and active scholars in their specialty areas. They serve as mentors of students participating in the Undergraduate Research Conference, one of the largest conferences of its kind in the U.S. They serve on university committees and are active in university shared governance. World Languages and Cultures faculty are sponsors of student organizations such as the French, German, Scandinavian, and Spanish clubs; they advise students on study abroad and career planning and mentor students in graduate programs. The department sponsors two language honor societies.

Our faculty have received Fulbright grants, faculty research grants, faculty improvement grants, and teaching awards. Faculty publications include books, articles, on-line publications, translations, videos, and electronic media.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Faculty/Student Ratio:

The average is 1:17, which varies according to program and level.

Specialized Facilities:

The Global Learning Lab is a state-of-the-art language laboratory. Using specialized software, hardware and networked storage, instructors can create assignments that give students opportunities to work individually, in pairs or small groups, or as an entire class. The lab is also equipped with multiple projectors and a variety of media players, allowing for dynamic and effective classroom presentations and other activities.

Our main classrooms in Armstrong Hall have modern, configurable furniture layouts, as well as large Internet-connected touchscreen monitors, document cameras, and all-region Blu-Ray players. In some cases, rooms are also outfitted with tablet computers and other tools to further enhance students' classroom experience.

Study Abroad:

All students are encouraged to travel and study in countries where their second language is spoken. Minnesota State Mankato has exchange agreements with a number of institutions of higher education in Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Students may study abroad for a semester or academic year. Summer opportunities in Sweden and Norway are also available. Credits earned at these institutions may count towards the Scandinavian Studies major or minor.

Scholarships:

The department awards scholarships to returning students based on academic merit and need. Some of those scholarships are aimed toward study abroad opportunities.

Other Opportunities:

The Department has active language clubs (French, German, Scandinavian, Spanish) and students have the opportunity to get engaged in community and university activities that allow them to use their language and understanding of culture. Some activities include film nights, collaboration with the Hispanic-Latino

Conference, the International Festival, conference planning and participation, volunteer service programs in the community and fundraising for club activities.

PLACEMENT EXAM

Students with previous experience with a Scandinavian language will need to take a placement exam to determine what courses he/she would be eligible to register for. High-school language experience or previous college level language courses prepare students for placement in our programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of World Languages and Cultures

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227 Armstrong Hall
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Phone

507-389-2116 (V)
800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY)

Website

hss.mnsu.edu/

Program Director

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SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM (SCANDINAVIAN, BA)

First Year (Fall)	First Year (Spring)
SCAN 101 Elementary Norwegian I (4) ENG 101 Composition (4) MATH 110 Perspectives in Mathematics (3) SCAN 150W Nordic Countries Intro	SCAN 102 Elementary Norwegian II (4) CMST 100 Fundamentals of Communication (3) General Education Goal Area 3 (3-4) General Education Goal Area 5 (3-4)
Second Year (Fall)	Second Year (Spring)
SCAN 292 Intermediate Norwegian I (4) Minor Course (3-4) General Education Goal Area 3 (3-4) General Education Goal Area 7 (3-4)	SCAN 293 Intermediate Norwegian II (4) SCAN Elective (4) Minor Course (3-4) General Education Goal Area 5 (3-4)
Third Year (Fall)	Third Year (Spring)
SCAN Elective (4) Minor Course (3-4) General Education Goal Area 6 (3-4) General Education Goal Area 10 (3-4)	SCAN Elective (4) Minor Course (3-4) General Education Goal Area 9 (3-4) General Education Goal Area 11 (2-3)
Fourth Year (Fall)	Fourth Year (Spring)
SCAN 490 Major Project in Scandinavian Studies (3) Minor Course (3-4) Writing Intensive Course (3-4) General Education Diverse Cultures, Purple or Gold (3-4)	SCAN Elective (4) Minor Course (3-4) Upper Level Course (3-4) Upper Level Course (3-4)

For additional information about course requirements, please visit hss.mnsu.edu/scandinavianstudies

