

NODB09, History, Society and Culture in Denmark, 7.5 credits

Historia, samhälle och kultur i Danmark, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2010-01-11 and was last revised on 2025-09-08 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/441). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-09 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Danish

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

Danish

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- describe the main lines of social and cultural development in modern Denmark, from the Enlightenment to today's democratic welfare state,
- describe the key historical and political events that have shaped the modern Danish state,
- describe significant Danish popular movements and their social significance from the 19th century to the present day,

Competence and skills

- analyse beliefs and cultural expressions linked to the history and cultural context of Denmark,
- identify and compare selected social issues in Denmark and Sweden in different historical and cultural contexts,

Judgement and approach

- reflect on and critically analyse historical and contemporary interpretations of national identity,
- problematise and discuss current social issues in Denmark based on historical currents of thought,
- discuss how colonial structures have affected the relationship between Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland in a historical and contemporary perspective,
- evaluate key similarities and differences in the way social issues are dealt with in Denmark and Sweden from a historical and ideological perspective.

Course content

The course deals with the social and cultural history of modern Denmark with a particular focus on the 1849 Constitution as a turning point in the development towards democracy and the welfare state. The period before 1849 is analysed in order to shed light on the ideas and social conditions that led to the constitution. National Romanticism, the rise of parliamentarianism and key movements such as the peasant, labour and women's movements are covered. Furthermore, the relations within the Danish Commonwealth between Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, as well as Denmark's colonial history, are dealt with, with the aim of creating a deeper understanding of how the nation's self-image has been shaped, how global relations have developed, and how these historical perspectives influence today's social debate.

The course highlights both influential actors and collectively organised forces in the public sphere. Currents of ideas from different eras are linked to how society and the climate of debate have been shaped in Denmark in modern times, and notions of Danish national identity are discussed in relation to Swedish national identity.

As part of the course, cultural expressions that reflect and shape societal values in different historical contexts are also included, such as fiction, film and music.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and seminars. Module 4 includes a compulsory component in the form of either an oral presentation in a group or an individual written assignment.

The course is offered either on campus or as a distance learning course and makes use of an online learning platform. Students are required to participate under these conditions when the course is offered remotely, and to have access to a computer with an Internet connection. The department will provide information about technical requirements.

Assessment

The course is examined through a written classroom exam when the course is given on campus and a written time-limited home exam when the course is given remotely.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course overlaps with the module "History, society and culture in Denmark" within NODA13 (Danish: Level 1).
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.
- The course requires good knowledge of Swedish.