Hello

My name is Nete Schmidt.

I have been the Undergraduate Major and Certificate Advisor in the Scandinavian Unit since 2000.

I came from Denmark in 1998 to teach Danish and Scandinavian Literature.

I would love to help you explore Scandinavian Studies so you can learn more about our classes, teachers, and opportunities.

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Why Choose Scandinavian Studies?

Declaring a major in Scandinavian Studies provides a wide array of ways you can stand out and profile yourself as an exceptional, global, and innovative student.

The Scandinavian countries have long been on the cutting edge of, among other things, sustainable energy, innovative bioscience, technology, healthcare, and social welfare. Learning more about these resourceful countries, their languages, culture, and ideologies not only benefits you as a student but gives you a decidedly positive edge in the eyes of future employers.
What do we offer?

Our department offers both a Major (BA/BS) and a Certificate in Scandinavian Studies.

The goal of the Scandinavian Studies Major is to provide you with a robust knowledge of the cultures and histories of the Nordic countries from a global and transdisciplinary perspective, studying everything from Swedish film to Sámi culture, Danish hygge to contemporary Scandinavian politics. Students can fulfill their L&S language requirements with Swedish, Norwegian, or Danish, and may have the opportunity to learn Old Norse, Icelandic, or Finnish.

Students also have an opportunity to live in Norden House, a language immersion program in Adams Residence Hall.
Requirements

MAJOR
To get a Major in Scandinavian Studies, you have to complete 5 semesters of a language and take courses for an additional 18 credits in literature, culture, and history. Honors in the major is offered.

CERTIFICATE
The Scandinavian Studies Certificate requires 18 credits of Scandinavian Studies courses, and, of these, 9 credits must be taken at the 300 level or higher.
As you can see, it is very easy to combine the Major or Certificate with other programs.
HIGHLIGHTED COURSES!

**SCAN ST 373 / LIT TRANS 271**
Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: From the Middle Ages to 1900
Open to first-year students
Instructor: Scott Hellon

**SCAND ST 427**
Contemporary Scandinavian Literature
Branding new course! 
Instructor: Benjamin Mier-Cruz

**SCAND ST 435**
The Icelandic Sagas
Instructor: Kirsten Wolf
4 credits

The course is designed to give students an understanding of sagas literature as a genre and of the cultural history of Iceland in the Viking era and the Middle Ages, based on the themes of the sagas of heroes. Concepts of heroism and the codes of honor are explored. The sagas tell the stories of the gods, the Vikings, and the development of the Icelandic nation. Many points of discussion include the heroism ideal, codes of honor, concepts of fate, justice, and the role of women.
FAQs

I’m interested but not ready to commit – what course should I try in the fall?

• Try a first semester of one of the languages!
• Try an intro course like Lit Trans 275 The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen, 419 Scandinavian Children’s Lit, 429 Mythology of Scandinavia, or one of the other great courses we offer.

What if I have previous experience with a language?

• We can arrange a placement exam with a faculty member to decide which semester of language would be most successful for you.

What’s with the numbering? All of the courses are in the 400 range. Are they all advanced?

• Our number was created under an older system and will be revised in the coming years to align with university standards. Just ask – and we will be happy to help you.

What about study abroad opportunities?

• We strongly encourage a study abroad experience for our students! There are several programs in Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden where students can continue their studies earning credits towards their Scandinavian Studies Major and Certificate – and also for other majors at the same time.

Scholarships?

• There are many scholarships available and special educational opportunities such as FLAS Scholarships, ScanDesign, Gudrun Gytel, Boren, and Brittingham Viking.
If you would like to know more, please talk to either
Nete Schmidt, aschmidt2@wisc.edu
or Joanna Schuth jschuth@wisc.edu
We will be happy to arrange a placement exam if you
need it - and help you declare the Major or
Certificate