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 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

Scandinavian Studies is a 21 credit major, designed to pair easily with other majors and certificates. Students complete language studies through fifth semester, and complete courses in literature, culture, and history.

Honors in the major is offered.

MINOR

The Scandinavian studies certificate requires 18 credits of SCAND ST. 9 credits must be taken at the 300 level or higher.
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 Morrow

**SCAND ST 427**
Contemporary Scandinavian Literature

Brand new course! 
Instructor: Benjamin Mier-Cruz

Fulfills Literature Breadth, 3 LAS Credits

**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 Age and the Middle Ages. Based on the interplay between pagan codes of honor and Christian ethics. A number of sagas of Icelanders will be read and analyzed. Points of discussion include the heroes' ideal, codes of honor, concepts of fate, jurisprudence, and the role of women.
FAQs

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

• Try an intro course like 419: Scandinavian Children’s Lit, 429: Mythology of Scandinavia, or LitTrans 275: Hans Christian Andersen in Translation. Or try a first semester of one of the languages!

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 numbering plan was created under an outdated system and will be revised in the coming years to align with university standards.

Are there study abroad opportunities?

• We strongly encourage a study abroad experience for our students! There are several programs in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland where students can continue their studies in their other major and earn credit towards their Scandinavian Studies major at the same time.

Scholarships?

• There are many scholarships available and special educational opportunities such as FLAS Scholarships, ScanDesign, Boren, and Brittingham Viking.
If you would like to know more, arrange a placement exam, or declare a major/certificate, contact Joanna Schuth, GNS+ academic advisor (jschuth@wisc.edu), or make an appointment on Starfish!