Program: CET Shanghai
Course Title: Nordic Cinema
Course Code: SH / Film 360
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: Cinema and Media Studies / European Studies, Nordic Studies, Nordic Language and Literature, Modern Languages and Literatures
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
This course allows students to evaluate, both aesthetically and politically, the way Nordic films convey their social and cultural values and commitments. Given the belief in film’s historical and social significance, it is the particular purpose of this course to look at Nordic films from 1945 to the present and analyze how they perceived and conjured up the social and cultural landscape. In addition, students examine some of the major political events and social and cultural trends that dominated the era and left a mark on its films. To achieve these goals, the course explores three different areas closely: a) state control and support of film production; b) film cultural characteristics, both those that seem to point in the direction of a unity in Nordic contexts and those that define each country respectively; and c) Nordic cinema in transition in times of transnationalism and globalization.

Objectives
At the end of the course students will be able to:

- identify the major political, social, and cultural changes in the Nordic countries since 1945.
- have a nuanced understanding of the key characteristics of Nordic cinema and its cultural and aesthetic traditions.
- contextualize films in terms of particular auteurships, recent film history, and contemporary social and political issues.

Course Requirements
Students view assigned films outside of class and read assigned materials according to the designated topics. Readings average 50 pages per week. Active participation in classroom discussion is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

In addition to participation, graded assignments for this class are:

- Two short response papers that focus on a film viewed during the course. Each response paper is built around a question, or questions, that is answered with a thesis and supporting argument that uses evidence from the film and readings.
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- A 10-minute class presentation with slides on the artistic achievements of a film from the course.
- A midterm essay of 1,000 words that analyzes a Nordic film of the student’s choice that is not on the course list.
- A final paper 2,500 words in length. Students select an essay topic from a list of possible choices. Additional details are provided in class.

Grading
The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation in discussions: 20%
- Short response papers: 20% (two at 10% each)
- Individual presentation: 10%
- Mid-term essay: 20%
- Final paper: 30%

Readings


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Films


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*The Man Without a Past (Mies Vailla Menneisyyttä).* Directed by Aki Kaurismäki. Finland: Sputnik and YLE et al., 2002.


*Pelle the Conqueror (Pelle Erobreren).* Directed by Bille August. Denmark: Svensk Filmindustri (SF), 1987.


Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – Course overview and an introduction to Nordic cinema
Topic 2 – Sweden and Swedish Cinema
Topic 3 – Finland and Finnish Cinema
Topic 4 – Norway and Norwegian Cinema
Topic 5 – Denmark and Danish Cinema
Topic 6 – Iceland and Icelandic Cinema
Topic 7 – Ingmar Bergman and His Films
Topic 8 – Nordic Immigrant Films
Topic 9 – The Newcomers in Nordic Cinema