

Introduction to Norway, 6 ETCS, Spring 2015

Introduction to Norway is a course intended to help foreign students at Sør-Trøndelag University College to develop knowledge and understanding of different aspects of Norwegian history, politics, culture and contemporary society at a foundational academic level. This basic knowledge should also contribute to better educational and social output from the study period at the students' home faculties and improve students' integration into the mainly "Norwegian cultural" study environments at the faculties. The course also provides an arena for inter-cultural communication and better understanding on student's own societies, values and cultures. As the language of lectures and other study activities is English, students also develop their proficiency in written as well as spoken English. Basic English reading and writing abilities is a requirement for those attending the course. The course is open to all foreign students studying at Sør-Trøndelag University College for shorter or longer periods. The department of History and Social Studies at the Faculty of Teacher and Interpreter Education are responsible for the course. Required study effort is stipulated to be approximately 160 hours of effective studying. This is the equivalent of 4 weeks full time effort.

The language of the course is English.

The main channel of communication and contact between students and between students and the academic staff is It's learning (a learning management system). Students are supposed to get basic information about and access to It's learning at their home faculties. Students are expected to log on to It's learning regularly to keep themselves well informed.

Academic Staff:

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Schedule lectures and excursions:

With the exception of term paper deadline and written exam, all lectures take place on Mondays and Wednesdays and between February 9th and March 18th. In addition to lectures there will be two excursions: one full day to trip to [Røros](#) and one half day trip to [Sverresborg museum](#). Participation on lectures and excursions is mandatory, and part of your course requirement, but you are allowed to be absent once. Nonattendance due to mandatory lectures and activities at your home faculty and/or sickness will not count as part of this absence. Extensive absence without notification, however, can prevent you from obtaining a course grade.

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Week and date	Mondays 13:15-15:00	Wednesdays: 14:15-16:00
Week 7	February 9th Introduction (NN)	February 11th Welfare state (NN)
Week 8: study week	No class	No class
Week 9	February 23rd Politics (NN)	February 25th
Week 10	March 2nd Geography I (Jørund)	March 4th History I (Roar)
Week 11	March 9th Geography II (Jørund)	March 11th History II (Roar)
Week 12	March 16th	March 18th Culture (Roar)
Week 13:	March 23rd	March 26th
	Term paper deadline	
	3h written exam	

The dates for the lectures are set and difficult to change. However, the dates for excursions to Røros and Sverresborg, as well as term paper deadline and exam will be discussed during the information lecture Monday February 9th 2014. We want as many as possible to be able to participate on these events and we will therefore try to find a date where most of you can actually come. The date for the 3-hour exam is also subject for discussion, but we try to find a date before the regular exam-period so it will not collide with exams at your home faculty.

Course requirements and grades

- 1) An individually written term paper (5-6 pages) to be handed in November 5th. The term paper will count 49% when deciding your final grade.
- 2) An individual written exam (3 hours in class). The Exam will take place at HIST-ALT Rotvoll in November. Date to be discussed. The exam will count 51% in deciding your final grade.

Required Readings

Minifacts about Norway 2013 (2013). Oslo: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Available at: <http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/minifacts-about-norway>. This publication is also available in german, french, spanish, portuguese, russian, arabic, chinese, japanese and norwegian.

Libæk, I., & Stenersen, Ø. (1999). *A history of Norway: from the Ice Age to the age of petroleum* (3rd ed.). Oslo: Grøndahl Dreyer. Available as digital book at: <http://www.nb.no/nbsok/nb/a88ed966c01666c306c74f3abcc912af.nbdigital?lang=no>. [Also available in print as: Stenersen, Ø., & Libæk, I. (2003). *The history of Norway: from the Ice age to today*. Lysaker: Dinamo forlag.]

Maagerø, E., & Simonsen, B. (Eds.). (2008). *Norway: society and culture* (2nd ed.). Kristiansand: Portal.
(pp.13-27, 56-250). [Also available as: Maagerø, E., & Simonsen, B. (Eds.). (2005). *Norway: society and culture*. Kristiansand: Portal.]

Rusten, G., Potthoff, K., & Sangolt, L. (Eds.). (2013). *Norway: nature, industry and society*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget.
(Chapter: 1-9, 14, 16, 19)