The study of Norwegian opens the door to another culture and another way of viewing the world. Students develop skills in communication, research, analytical thinking, and writing that are essential to a liberal education and are useful in a wide range of careers. They learn about Norway’s role in technology, environmental awareness, social equality, and international peace initiatives. Some of the world’s best literature awaits discovery by students of Norwegian: works by authors like Ibsen, Hamsun, and Undset, as well as by writers who have not been translated into English. Norwegian also enables many students to explore their cultural heritage and encourages contact with relatives and friends in Norway.

Overview of the Major
The Norwegian major is designed for students who wish to gain advanced competency in the Norwegian language along with an understanding of Norwegian society and culture. Following foundational courses in Norwegian language, students undertake coursework in advanced language and in topics relating to culture, history, and literature to engage critically with what makes Norway and its people distinctive.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major

Overview of the Sámi and Critical Indigenous Studies Emphasis
The Sámi and Critical Indigenous Studies emphasis is a collaboration between the Norwegian Department, the Nordic Studies program, and the Race and Ethnic Studies program. In addition to courses in these programs, the emphasis includes courses from a variety of other programs to create a space to critically examine indigenous academic knowledge and Nordic colonialism. The emphasis provides an in-depth understanding of the historical experiences, cultural traditions and innovations, and political status of the Sámi and the interconnections among the Sámi and other indigenous peoples worldwide.

St. Olaf College stands on the homelands of the Wahpekute Band of the Dakota Nation. We honor with gratitude the people who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and their ongoing contributions to this region. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota Nation, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

Requirements

Requirements for the Major

Select one (1) option:

Option Æ: two (2) 370-level courses taught in Norwegian:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORW 371</td>
<td>Norwegian Literature: An Overview</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORW 372</td>
<td>Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORW 373</td>
<td>Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Option Å: one (1) level II or 370-level course partially in Norwegian (must total at least 0.50 credit) and one (1) level III course entirely in Norwegian

Level II courses partially or entirely in Norwegian:

- NORST 277 Islamic Communities in Scandinavia (FLAC .25 credit)
- NORW 205 Nature in Nordic Literature and Culture (FLAC .25 credit)

The emphasis consists of four total courses: two required foundational courses and two electives. Note that RACE 252 cannot be used for the Norwegian major.

Distinction

See Academic Honors

Distinction in Norwegian should reflect a special interest in some aspect of Norwegian language and culture. A distinction project may spring out of coursework but must go beyond and must incorporate some public activity, whether that be print publication, website development, oral presentation, or other public performance.

Special Programs

The Norwegian Department sponsors many speakers and activities such as the annual Christmas service and Seventeenth of May celebration and provides students with the opportunity to live in a language house with a native speaker assistant. The Norwegian-American Historical Association, a rich source of information on Norwegian immigration, is housed in Rølvaag Memorial Library. Many students choose to study in Norway on a variety of programs such as the Oslo International Summer School and the St. Olaf-sponsored programs in Norway. Norwegian professors also participate in the Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) program, collaborating with disciplinary professors to offer students the opportunity to use their world language skills in selected courses in other departments.
NORW 244 The Sámi: Traditions in Transition (FLAC .25 credit)

NORW 294 Academic Internship (.25 or .50 credit)

NORW 296 Oslo, Norway Internship Reflection Seminar

Off-campus study courses: grammar course, Nynorsk course (ISS)

370-level courses entirely in Norwegian:

NORW 371 Norwegian Literature: An Overview

NORW 372 Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture

NORW 373 Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture

Cultural and Historical Perspectives (in English):

Select one (1) course that critically examines questions of Nordic diversity, inequity, and social justice: 1.00

ENVST 283 Topics in Environmental Studies (Arctic Journeys: Literature of the North)

LNGST 301 Germanic Multiethnolects-A Story of Birth

NORST 100 Nordic Values: From Origins to Obstacles

NORST 264 Nordic Explorations of Sexualities and Genders

NORST 277 Islamic Communities in Scandinavia

NORW 224 Topics in Contemporary Nordic Literature: A Window on Society

NORW 244 The Sámi: Traditions in Transition

PSYCH 232 Gender Equality in Norway (study abroad)

Select one (1) additional humanities course: 1.00

HIST 211 Vikings: Past and Present

HIST 222 Modern Scandinavia

HIST 271 In their own words: Literature by Immigrants in Minnesota

NORW 130 Nordic Film Today

NORW 180 The Nordic Child in Literature and Film

NORW 240 Vikings Past and Present

NORW 244 The Sámi: Traditions in Transition

NORW 260 Introduction to Germanic Linguistics

NORW 282 The Drama of Henrik Ibsen

Select one (1) additional Norwegian or Nordic Studies course from courses listed above; students may also select from the following: 1.00

LNGST 301 Germanic Multiethnolects-A Story of Birth

NORST 200 Transdisciplinary Topics in Nordic Studies

NORST 264 Nordic Explorations of Sexualities and Genders

NORST 277 Islamic Communities in Scandinavia

NORST 280 Nordic Film Directors

NORST 396 Directed Undergraduate Research

NORW 280 Nordic Mythology and Christianization

One course may be taken S/U. A maximum of three courses may count from study in Norway.

Total Credits 9.5-10

Please note: Students completing both the Norwegian and the Nordic Studies Major must have at least 15 total courses. In the case of a student who tests out of the foundational courses, 11 courses are required.

*By completing this major, the student also satisfies the OLE Core Writing in the Major requirement.

Requirements for the Sámi and Critical Indigenous Studies emphasis

The emphasis consists of four total courses: two required foundational courses and two electives. Note that RACE 252 cannot be used for the Norwegian major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORW 244</td>
<td>The Sámi: Traditions in Transition</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RACE 252</td>
<td>Topical Seminar (Theories of Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORW 205</td>
<td>Nature in Nordic Literature and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORW 372</td>
<td>Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture (taught in Norwegian; counts if topic is relevant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Musicology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC 245</td>
<td>Music and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC 237</td>
<td>Local and Global Musicking</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOAN 233</td>
<td>A Sociology of Colonialism and Postcolonialism</td>
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To count towards the emphasis, students must have a project/paper connected to Norwegian/Nordic colonialism.
Study abroad courses from DIS-Copenhagen; Postcolonial Europe: Narrative, Nationalism, and Race; and Arctic Geopolitics

Total Credits 4

Courses

Language Courses

NORW 111: Beginning Norwegian I
Proficiency in a second language opens the door to another culture and another way of viewing the world. This course starts students on the road to achieving such a proficiency. Students begin learning to speak, understand, read, and write Norwegian and learn about Norwegian culture through the language. Offered annually in the fall semester.

NORW 112: Beginning Norwegian II
Students continue developing proficiency in spoken and written Norwegian, increasing their vocabulary, improving grammatical accuracy, and gaining experience reading and listening to authentic materials. Offered annually in the spring semester.

NORW 231: Intermediate Norwegian I
Students improve proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on communication as well as improved grammatical accuracy. Reading and discussion of authentic literary and cultural texts allow students to expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the Norwegian way of life. Offered annually in the fall semester.

Prerequisite: NORW 111 or by placement test.

NORW 232: Intermediate Norwegian II
This course is a continuation of the approach of NORW 231, in which authentic cultural and literary texts provide the basis for writing and discussion on topics such as health, work, Norwegian history, society, politics, environmental issues, and minorities in Norway. Materials include a contemporary novel. Offered annually in the spring semester.

Prerequisite: NORW 231 or by placement test.

NORW 235: Social Debates in Historical Context
In this course students work to develop competence in Norwegian culture, history and society through a survey of the state and politics and the Norwegian population. Through these topics, students learn about important moments in Norwegian history. They explore some of the most important debates that are taking place in Norway now, and learn to formulate themselves in several oral and written contexts, including informative presentations and discussion and argumentative texts.

Prerequisite: NORW 232 or by placement test.

NORW 371: Norwegian Literature: An Overview
This course is a historical survey of Norwegian literary and cultural history from the medieval period to contemporary times. Students read a selection of short texts and a play by Henrik Ibsen. They gain knowledge of the most important periods of Norwegian literature and develop skills of close reading and critical reflection. The course emphasizes the understanding of individual texts in the light of their historical period, while also addressing how Norwegian literature has been used in modern constructions of cultural identity and how it has influenced and reflected larger societal developments. Taught in Norwegian.

Prerequisite: NORW 253 or equivalent.

NORW 372: Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture
This course offers an in-depth investigation of a selected topic from Norwegian literary or cultural history. Topics may be organized by period (Realism, Postwar literature), historical events (literature and World War II), important themes (feminism, social democracy, religion and secularism), or genre (Norwegian poetry, literature and film). The course also emphasizes development of critical, interpretive, and research skills, as well as refinement of Norwegian language proficiency. This course is taught in Norwegian. Offered annually. Also counts toward Nordic studies concentration.

Prerequisite: Norwegian 253 or equivalent.

NORW 373: Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture
This course offers an in-depth investigation of a selected topic from Norwegian literary or cultural history. Topics may be organized by period (Realism, Postwar literature), historical events (literature and World War II), important themes (feminism, social democracy, religion and secularism), or genre (Norwegian poetry, literature and film). The course also emphasizes development of critical, interpretive, and research skills, as well as refinement of Norwegian language proficiency. This course is taught in Norwegian. Offered annually. Also counts toward Nordic studies concentration.

Prerequisite: Norwegian 253 or equivalent.

Nordic Literature and Culture (Taught in English)

NORW 130: Nordic Film Today
This film course introduces students to contemporary Nordic film. Readings/screenings present a broad spectrum of contemporary issues, along with current critique and theoretical approaches. Topics include: history, culture and society, translation, gender/sexuality, national identity, urbanization, minority issues, etc. Students attain an understanding of these cultural trends and the technical terminology to watch, read, think, talk, and write critically and intelligently about films as text. Taught in English. Offered periodically. Also counts toward film and media studies major and concentration.

NORW 205: Nature in Nordic Literature and Culture
This course examines the representation of nature from creation narratives of Norse myth, 19th century nation-building, and up to present concerns about climate change and environmental destruction in the Nordic region. Students examine central works and contested notions of nature. Alongside these, they will be introduced to ecocriticism as a method of textual analysis. This provides an entryway into the environmental humanities, and an opportunity to explore what makes Nordic literature and culture unique. Offered periodically. Also counts toward environmental studies major, and environmental studies and Nordic studies concentrations.

NORW 224: Topics in Contemporary Nordic Literature: A Window on Society
Recently there has been an explosion in Nordic literature translated into English, providing unprecedented access to contemporary literary texts produced in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. In this course students read and analyze contemporary Nordic literary texts and examine those societies through a literary perspective. Sample topics: “Murder Nordic Style: Contemporary Crime Fiction” and “Gender and Nordic Society.” Taught in English. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: WRIT 120 or equivalent.
NORW 244: The Sámi: Traditions in Transition
This interdisciplinary course explores the Sámi, an indigenous people living mainly in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Students first place the Sámi in a historical-cultural context by examining the Sámi's social and economic systems, religion, customs, and values. The major portion of the course examines the Sámi primarily from within: the Sámi will present themselves through their literature, film, music, and art. Taught in English. Offered periodically. Also counts toward applied linguistics concentration, race and ethnic studies major and concentration, and international relations concentration.

NORW 260: Introduction to Germanic Linguistics
This course explores linguistic and social processes that underlie language change with a focus on the Germanic language family. Students learn the fundamental methods of comparative historical linguistics to analyze the development of modern Germanic languages (e.g., English, German, Norwegian, etc.) from a common ancestor. These processes concern how language operates as a cognitive system, as well as core social factors that impact language practices. Students also learn to critically engage with linguistic scholarship and develop their research and writing skills through a project on a topic of their choosing. Offered periodically. Also counts toward German major; and applied linguistics, Nordic studies, and German studies concentrations.
Prerequisites: LNGST 250 or NORW 231 or GERM 231 or permission of the instructor.

NORW 280: Nordic Mythology and Christianization
This course introduces students to the religious situation of Viking and Medieval Scandinavia before and after the advent of Christianity. Through exploring Norse mythology, Nordic Christianization, and Nordic memory of the pagan past, students examine the relationship between religion (both structure and belief) and the everyday lifeworld of a people. Offered annually.

NORW 282: The Drama of Henrik Ibsen
Students analyze the plays of Henrik Ibsen in English translation using a variety of critical approaches. Students investigate ethical issues and themes in Ibsen's plays by examining the plays through the lens of ethics, using readings in ethical theory to better understand both the ethical issues and the plays themselves. Students also study Ibsen's dramatic technique and the historical and literary context of his work. Taught in English. Offered annually. Also counts toward gender and sexuality studies major and concentration.

NORW 294: Academic Internship

NORW 296: Oslo, Norway Internship Reflection Seminar
This seminar integrates the experience of work and the search for career in the context of Norway. Course content includes both an internship in Oslo and a reflection seminar. The reflection seminar connects academic theories/analyses of work and Norwegian culture with the internship experience. Through reading, writing, and discussion, this course provides a space in which to reflect on the challenges, hopes, and fears facing students embarking on their postgraduation careers. Also counts toward Norwegian, history, environmental studies, political science, and kinesiology majors; and educational studies, Nordic studies, and statistics and data science concentrations. Offered alternate years during January Term.
Prerequisite: completion of the World Languages and Cultures requirement in Norwegian.

NORW 298: Independent Study

NORW 394: Academic Internship

NORW 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to their research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.
Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

NORW 398: Independent Research

NORW 399: Seminar
May be repeated if topics are different.

Related Course

HIST 211: Vikings: Past and Present
This course focuses on film, television, and other mediatized representations of Vikings and medieval Scandinavia. Depictions of the past greatly influence our interpretation and understanding of history, and also give insight into the present. Students will examine the origins of Viking myths, as well as historical debates. Topics include the Hollywoodization of a Nordic hero, depictions of gender, race, and sexuality, as well as the use of Nordic mythology in far right-wing circles. Offered annually. Also counts toward medieval studies major and Nordic studies concentration.

Faculty

Chair, 2023-2024
Kari Lie Dorer
Professor of Norwegian and Race, Ethnic, Gender and Sexuality Studies, King Olav V Chair in Scandinavian-American Studies Norwegian language and culture; applied linguistics; Sami studies; Nordic film

Jenna M. Coughlin
Assistant Professor of Norwegian
Norwegian language and culture; Nordic literature and media; ecocriticism; gender studies

Andrew (Andy) Meyer
Visiting Assistant Professor of Norwegian

Tanya Thresher
Visiting Associate Professor of Norwegian
Norwegian language and culture; gender studies, Nordic theater and film, Ibsen, Nordic multiculturalism