

## **Nordic Studies Major Summary of EPC Proposal**

**Proposal:** We propose merging the current Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies major into a new Nordic Studies major, housed within the Department of Languages and Literatures, that will offer a series of courses drawn from those two programs as a single, streamlined and optimized program. The Nordic Studies program will work in concert with a modified Norwegian minor, which we also propose here.

In practical terms, this proposal therefore includes the following:

1. Creating a new Nordic Studies major within the Department of Languages and Literatures.
2. Eliminating the current Norwegian major.
3. Modifying the Norwegian minor.
4. Eliminating the current Scandinavian Area Studies major and minor.
5. Eliminating the interdisciplinary Scandinavian Area Studies program and committee.

**Rationale:** With the new major, we seek to strengthen enrollments, allow faculty expertise to have maximum impact and make wise choices in both curriculum and resource use. The merger of the Norwegian (NORW) and Scandinavian Area Studies (SCAN) majors into Nordic Studies (NORD) ensures consistent teaching, room for innovation and program assessment and attention to the priorities of diversity, justice and sustainability.

PLU was founded by Norwegian settlers and this heritage has been part of the university's identity for some time. The new Nordic Studies Program moves beyond heritage to emphasize the diversity of experiences in the Nordic region, the ways in which literary and cultural studies can critique notions of origins and explore ways in which the study of the Nordic region is relevant to today. It continues to educate students in the Norwegian language and in Nordic cultures, literatures, arts and societies, all within the context of a rigorous and critical liberal arts program of study.

Structurally, the merger reduces the amount of overhead associated with maintaining two closely linked and somewhat parallel programs. Specifically, the course release, operating budget and library budget for SCAN are eliminated.

The NORD major retains the interdisciplinary participation of faculty members outside of Languages and Literatures, allowing for specific outside courses to count as electives. We will maintain a Nordic Studies Advisory Committee consisting of those faculty members who regularly teach courses counting as electives for the major.

### **Nordic Studies Proposal**

Proposals may also be found online in the [Office of the Provost Sakai site](#)

## Catalog Description

### Major in Nordic Studies

*36 semester hours*

#### Language

*16 semester hours of Norwegian or another Nordic language, such as*

- **NORW 101: Elementary Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 102: Elementary Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 201: Intermediate Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 202: Intermediate Norwegian (4)**

\*A maximum of 4 credits could be waived for a student testing into NORW201 or 202 or its equivalent level in another Nordic language.

#### Lower Division

*4 semester hours, selected from*

- **NORD 241: Nordic Folklore (4)**
- **NORD 286: Sámi Culture in Global Indigenous Contexts (4)**
- **NORD 287: The Vikings (4)**

#### Upper Division

*8 semester hours, selected from*

- **NORD 341: Migrant Voices in Nordic Literature (4)**
- **NORD 342: Nordic Literature and Social Change (4)**
- **NORD 343: Topics in Nordic Film (4)**
- **NORD 363: Culture, Gender and the Wild (4)**

#### Electives

*4 semester hours selected from any course not used above, or from*

- **NORD 231: Language and Identity (4)**
- **NORD 322: World Issues (4)**
- **GLST 384: Scandinavian Government and Politics (4)**
- **MUSI 106: Music of Scandinavia (4)**
- Sometimes applicable to this category; consult department chair for applicability:
  - **PHIL 238: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life (4)**

#### Capstone

*4 semester hours*

- **NORD 499: Capstone: Senior Project (4)**

### Minor in Norwegian

*20 semester hours*

#### Language

*16 semester hours*

- **NORW 101: Elementary Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 102: Elementary Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 201: Intermediate Norwegian (4)**
- **NORW 202: Intermediate Norwegian (4)**

#### Elective

*4 semester hours; may be any additional NORW course(s) or any NORD course(s).*