



BJØRKNES

UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE

The Nobel Peace Prize – What, Why and to Whom? (5.33 credits)

This course will analyze the ideas behind and the actual practice(s) expressed by the Nobel Peace Prize, which is awarded in Oslo every year – the city of Bjørknes University College.

The Nobel Peace Prize is arguably – alongside the other Nobel Prizes – the world’s most prestigious award, and it leads to debate, inspiration, and controversy every time it is handed out. Where does it come from, what does it represent and advocate, and who gets it?

We will primarily analyze the following three themes during the course, with the aid of readings, lectures, and classroom discussions:

- Nobel and his will: What does it say, which values does it advocate, and how can it be interpreted today?
- The idea of peace as it is expressed through the history of the peace prize.
- Selected laureates from Nobel history: lives, writings, and ideas.

Course coordinator: *Henrik Syse, who is a part-time Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Bjørknes, a Senior Research Fellow at PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo), and from 2015 to 2021 one of the five permanent members of the Nobel Committee.*

Lecturers: *The course will be taught by several teachers from inside and outside Bjørknes*

(Disclaimer: Henrik will obviously not be able to share anything about current discussions within the Nobel Committee, or other matters that are strictly confidential under the rules of the Committee. However, in the course of the fall, this year’s laureate will be announced, and Henrik will certainly have things to say about that, which will be included in the course, and he will more generally be able to reflect on the work of the Committee from his perspective.)