



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies

Advanced Emphasis Title: Northern Scandinavian Politics and Society

Institution: [Bodø Regional University](#)

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Start Date: Early September – Early December

Application deadline: 15 April

Credits: 30 ECTS (15 North American credits at most institutions)

Requirements: General requirements for study competence at university level. We require that you have completed at least one year of undergraduate studies in your home country, preferably within the field of social sciences or the core courses of Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies.

Course Description:

The courses focus on Scandinavia with emphasis on Norway and the northern regions. Politics, welfare systems, natural resources, rights and indigenous peoples are some of the key words for the programme. The study programme will be of special relevance for students who want to combine a one- semester social science programme with a shorter stay in Norway, included in their BA program as electives or as a minor. The courses will also be of relevance for Norwegian students, who want to experience a foreign student environment and to learn more about Scandinavia and its northern regions.

The programme is organised into three separate courses/advanced emphasis, which may be taken separately. Students are expected to write a paper within each of the courses.

Courses:

Introduction

The first week will be devoted to an introduction to the study program and getting acquainted with Bodø Regional University, Bodø city and the Salten region.

The History of the High North (10 ECTS)

This course will focus on economic, political and cultural aspects of the modern history of the High North. Among the main themes will be: How Norwegians and the Saami people have made use of natural resources in the north., the relationship between the Norwegian government and the Saami people after 1850, international relations in the High North, especially during the Cold War. The syllabus will consist of about 700 pages.

Scandinavian Politics (10 ECTS)

The political systems of the Scandinavian countries, different levels of government, will be compared and discussed. The Scandinavian political party system, the Nordic model of government, regional and local government, politics and relations with the rest of Europe will be focused at. Special emphasis will be given to Norwegian politics and on comparisons of the political organisation of the indigenous people of the north and their influence on matters of importance. The syllabus will consist of about 700 pages.

Northern Scandinavian Societies (10 ECTS)

This course will focus on basic social features and crucial institutions and on the Nordic Welfare Systems of the Scandinavian societies, their function and change with special emphasis on the northern regions. The course will also deal with land and natural resources, resource rights and northern minorities. The syllabus will consist of about 700 pages.

Teaching

All teaching will be in English and in the form of lectures and seminars. The students are expected to take active part by paper presentations and discussions at the seminars. Students are also expected to work together in smaller groups of self- studying and discussions.

Excursions

The municipality of Bodø and the Nordland region will be used to exemplify northern life and economy and especially the dependence of natural resources. This area also comprises reindeer herding and communities of both Northern Saami, the Lulesaami, the Pitesaami and the Southern Saami. A cultural centre for the Lulesaami population is also located to the region.

Assessment

Each course will have the same type of exam and will consist of a paper (55%), and a final school exam (45%). Grading will be by the use of the international grade scale A-F. Students may work in pairs writing the papers. In the case that only one or two of the courses have been taken, documentation and marks will be given for those courses taken.