

Razors and Dolls: Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia

Content

We begin with an exploration of Scandinavia's Modern Breakthrough, a literary movement that used social realism to critique, among other issues, gender inequality and sexual freedom. We will then trace the trajectory of Sweden's progressive attitudes toward gender equality and sexuality by looking at changes in the home, media, the arts and government. We will also question our perceptions of Scandinavia as a sexually progressive region and how this informs our own understanding of sexuality.

Course objectives

The aims and objectives of this course are to gain factual knowledge about literary, historical and political events in Scandinavia that helped to shape today's ideas of gender and sexuality, and to gain a broader understanding and appreciation of issues affecting sex and gender equality.

Schedule

Week 1: "The Woman Question"

Day	Topic	To read in advance
Monday	Course Introduction Moral Debate of the 1880s; Strindberg's <i>The Stronger</i>	
Tuesday	A Doll's House, naturalism and drama	Ibsen's A Doll's House (Acts 1&2)
Wednesday	A Doll's House, Miss Julie, and sexual double standards and censorship	Strindberg's Miss Julie
Thursday	Miss Julie, early feminism and equal rights for women	Miss Julie

Week 2: Women Writers and Feminist Movements

Day	Topic	To read in advance
Monday	Womanhood and Eroticism; On the Free Love Movement	Excerpts from Anne Charlotte Leffler's <i>Womanhood & Eroticism</i>
Tuesday	Women in the home and workplace; political movements of the 1930s and 40s.	Excerpts from Victoria Benedictsson's <i>Money</i> , Moa Martinsson's <i>Women and Appletrees</i>
Wednesday	Sex and Feminism of the 60s and 70s	Handouts
Thursday	Sex Sells: Swedes of the Silver Screen and controversy abroad	Miss Julie

Week 3: Gender and Sex Today

Day	Topic	To read in advance
Monday	Gender and Sex in Scandinavian Art.	
Tuesday	History of prostitution and trafficking of children and women; laws and acts in Sweden.	Handouts
Wednesday	Uncanny Masculinities: on the shifting roles of men in Scandinavia.	Handouts
Thursday	From Pippi Longstocking to The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. Course review on the evolution of gender and sexuality in Scandinavian culture and society.	Handouts

Language of instruction

This course is offered in English.