

Curriculum Committee Resolution 23/24-15

Date: May 1, 2024
To: St. Olaf Faculty
From: Curriculum Committee
RE: Proposed New Program

At the May 2024 Faculty Meeting the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following new program.

Program Name: Augsburg CGEE: Social Systems, Sustainability, and Justice in Norway

Program description:

Students will explore Norwegian life by learning about a broad cross-section of contemporary and historic topics, while meeting those who call Norway home. This program explores the Norwegian and Nordic models of addressing contemporary social issues. These issues encompass a wide range, including the climate crisis and the emerging importance of environmental sustainability. Additionally, the program explores topics such as national identity, gender equality, immigration, happiness, housing, labor rights, renewable energy, and economic inequality.

Throughout the program, students will have the invaluable opportunity to engage with Norwegian and international college students attending Norway's Østfold University College. Together, Augsburg CGEE students and ØUC students will dive into the intricacies of these issues, comparing and contrasting the Nordic approaches with those of the United States. Throughout the semester, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the diverse approaches taken by different nations in addressing these shared challenges of the twenty-first century.

Students will live in Fredrikstad, a mid-sized Norwegian city approximately 60 miles south of the capitol, Oslo. Several excursions throughout Norway will also be included as will visits to neighboring Scandinavian countries, Denmark and Sweden.

All CGEE-Norway Students will be placed in campus housing with our partner institution, Østfold University College (sometimes referred to as "ØUC"). Campus housing is modest dormitory style, with shared common spaces, exercise rooms, and weekly activities by the staff, giving students plenty of opportunity to make friends with ØUC Norwegian and other international students.

Fredrikstad is an accessible city, with most everything students will need within walking distance of where they will live and study. The housing is a 5 minute walk from the campus, where they will take their courses. From there, it is a short 5-10 minute walk over the River Glomma into the town, where there are many restaurants, shops, and cafes where they will experience the famed-Norwegian hygge, or "coziness". There is also a free river ferry that travels on the river from one end of town to the other to help them explore Fredrikstad in a uniquely Norwegian way.

Oslo is a simple one-hour train ride from Fredrikstad, offering students ample opportunity to explore the big city, in addition to many flights from the Oslo airport to the rest of Scandinavia and Europe on breaks and weekends.

Courses Available:

All students take a full course load during the semester.

Coursework is in English, there is no Norwegian language prerequisite for the program.

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Department Code</u>	<u>Credits</u>
<u>Required Courses:</u>		
Contemporary Nordic Issues in Comparative Perspective	POL/SOC 332	4 cr
Making the Modern Welfare State: Nordic and U.S. Approaches	HIS 359	4 cr
Environment, Innovation, and Sustainability: The Nordic Economic Model	ECO 279	4 cr
Global Competency Certificate ¹	INS 291	1 cr
<u>Elective Courses:</u>		4 cr
One Elective course from ØUC (see below for details), or, Directed Study (INS 299), or Independent Study (INS 499) will also be available. [equiv. to 4 credits] In addition to the above shared courses, each student will be allowed to select one elective course from ØUC (also taught in English). ²		
Norwegian as a Foreign Language I and II		
Development of Green (Sustainable) Business Models (fall)		
Intercultural Communication		
Media Studies		
Directed Research Project		

Support for Program:

¹ Students will earn their Global Competence Certificate (GCC) which they can highlight on their resume upon graduation. The GCC, internationally-known and respected, helps students integrate their study abroad experience with vital knowledge that will help them make a positive impact on the world.

² Availability of elective courses varies per term, and according to schedules, but a sample list of courses is included. Students will be able to select their elective course from a pre-approved list prior to the start of the semester.

Professors Kari Lie Dorer and Jenna Coughlin in Norwegian have consulted with the Augsburg staff and faculty who designed this program. They have led an interest session among their first and second year students and discovered significant student interest in the program.

The Smith Center has too much demand for our existing exchange programs in Norway (limited to 6 semester participants/3 academic year participants) and we have been looking for a program that would meet the needs of the Norwegian/Nordic studies programs, but also be accessible to other students interested in Norway. We have partnered with Augsburg on several other semester programs, so we have great confidence in this program.

Plans for Program Evaluation:

Participants each term will be asked to complete an online evaluation and an in-person re-entry meeting as a way of gathering detailed feedback about their academic coursework and the other features of the program experience. Smith Center prepares an annual report for the curriculum committee of all semester programs. This report will summarize student feedback. and request either to continue the program as a regular offering of the approved programs list or to discontinue the program.