Rise of the Scandinavian Novel

Spring 2012, CRN: 37390
MWF, 12:00-12:50
142 Straub Hall
Professor Gantt Gurley

In this course we will explore the genre and theories of the novel and its development in the Scandinavian countries. Beginning at the end of the Danish Golden Age, we will follow the evolution of the novel into the aftermath of World War II and into the sensation that is modern Scandinavian crime fiction. We will pay particular attention to the novel’s reception in Romanticism, Naturalism, and Impressionism, and the small, post-war, experimental movement called Black Romanticism. To supplement our study, we will call into question the actual form and structure of the genre by reading current and classical thinking on novel theory. Writers to be discussed include, Meïr Aaron Goldschmidt, Herman Bang, Knut Hamsun, Pär Lagerkvist, Karen Blixen, Hans Christian Branner, Peter Fogtdal, and the duo Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö.