

Pitt in Sweden/Continuing Swedish Abroad

Course name:	Independent Study – Continuing Swedish Abroad
Course number:	SWE 1901
Programs offering course:	Pitt in Sweden
Language of instruction:	Swedish/only minimal English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3 semester credits
Contact Hours:	42
Term:	May 2018

Course Description

This highly conversational course allows intermediate and advanced level students of Swedish to continue their studies by immersing themselves in the language in Sweden. The focus will be on developing fluency in speaking and writing as well as furthering the understanding of Swedish culture. Building on existing skills, we will take advantage of being in-country and utilize authentic materials (popular literature, media, information pamphlets, etc.) and combine it with hands-on experiential learning activities, such as role-plays, interviews and out-of-classroom activities. This course will not replace any higher-level Swedish (3-8) taught at Pitt.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will have:

- have had ample opportunities to immerse themselves in Swedish and Swedish culture and improved on their socio-cultural competency
- developed a greater competence in comprehending and producing the language, both spoken and written
- gained knowledge about Swedish, and specifically, Uppsala student life through the learning of culture-specific vocabulary

Course Prerequisites

At least 2 semesters of Swedish at Pitt OR placement test before arrival in-country to determine appropriate level of language instruction.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be highly conversational and students need to come to class prepared to use their Swedish. Classroom sessions will typically involve discussions of a popular novel read together, news, TV-shows, or situational activities designed to teach a specific set of vocabulary or phrases, e.g. going to the doctor, applying for a job, etc. Students will be highly involved in choosing articles, blogs, shows, etc. to use as basis for discussions and students will take turns introducing materials. Grammar will be taught/reviewed as needed and in connection with class discussions. Classroom sessions will be followed with experiential learning session, where students get to practice the vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar from the classroom sessions. Students will interview Swedes, visit restaurants, cafés and supermarkets, go to the nations, etc. and be expected to conduct these visits using only Swedish. In addition, students will be paired up with language partners and meet with them once a week to practice the language in an informal setting.

Assessment and Final Grade

Grading will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and Participation: 50 %
2. Homework and quizzes: 25 %
3. Final Written Exam: 10 %
4. Final Oral Exam: 15 %

Course Requirements

Attendance and class participation

Since this course heavily focuses on improving conversational skills, attendance and class participation are the most important part of the course, and these categories will make up for 50 % of the final grade. Should students fail to attend or not to actively participate in the experiential learning activities, the grade will be heavily affected.

Homework

Students are expected to complete homework assignments on their own and occasionally with a partner. Students will also take turns presenting interesting materials to be used as basis for discussions, e.g. news, songs, blogs, etc. they encounter while in Uppsala. Since the students have expressed an interest in reading and using a Swedish novel as basis for discussion, they will be expected to come in prepared to discuss the assigned reading for that day. Students will also be required to take 3 quizzes to show they have learned their homework. Homework assignments and quizzes count for 25 % of the final grade.

Exams

At the end of the course, there will be a final exam which counts for 10 % of the final grade. The exam will focus on the theoretical parts of the course (grammar and vocabulary). There will also be an oral exam counting for 15 % of the final grade.

Course materials:

Jungstedt, Mari. *Den farliga leken*. Stockholm: LL-förlaget, 2011.
Handouts, etc. provided by instructor.

Schedule:

Each class to start with discussion of news/what's going on in Sweden today.

Please note that schedule may change due to how class progresses and/or to accommodate the incorporation of student suggested material.

Session 1, May 9

Getting to know each other

- course expectations
- introduction of novel
- news and news sources to be used for class
- greeting phrases
- questions when meeting someone for the first time

Homework: What Swedish food have you had since you arrived? Impressions? Likes and dislikes? Prepare vocab list and short presentation.

Session 2, May 10

Food and drink

- food, Swedish food
- phrases when going shopping
- order food and drinks at cafés and restaurants
- around the dinner table
- how to politely state preferences, explain allergies

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, part 1 (pp 7 – 19)

For quiz 1: Food, phrases when going shopping, at a restaurant

Session 3, May 11

Food and drinks/ Around the dinner table

- Quiz 1
- *Den farliga leken*, part 1

- Visit to ICA Supermarket to practice what we've learned with picnic and Swedish foods afterwards.

Homework: Essay. After a week in Sweden, what is your impression of Swedish food and Swedish grocery stores? Compare with US food and stores.

Session 4, May 15

Small talk and 'small' words

- jaha, nähkö, jaiså, javisst...
- starting and ending a conversation
- work, weather and how was your week... Topics of small talk
- occupations
- 'lagom'
- phone conversations – formal and informal
- texting in Swedish
- colloquial Swedish and slang in small talk

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 2
Practice phone conversations. Make a phone call.

Session 5, May 16

Weather

- *Den farliga leken*, del 2
- weather phrases
- Swedish geography; regions, provinces
- cardinal points
- comparisons
- listening exercise: weather reports; radio and TV

Homework: present the weather in Sweden and back in the US.
Review weather phrases.

Session 6, May 17

Fashion and clothes

- clothes
- colors and patterns
- Swedish fashion designers
- at H&M; phrases for fit, bigger/smaller sizes
- reasoning; explain your style and personal choices
- read a fashion magazine; *Veckorevyn*, *Amelia*, *Damernas*...

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 3.
Practice colors and patterns – adjectives (indef. and def. forms)

For quiz 2: Phone conversations, weather, clothes, colors and patterns, occupations

Session 7, May 18 **People**

- Quiz 2
- *Den farliga leken*, del 3
- descriptions; appearance, character
- comparing; stereotypical Swedes vs Americans

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 4.

Wanted-poster

Essay: the novel is about fashion and models. What is your impression of Swedish fashion and the way Swedes dress?

Session 8, May 21 **Swedes and their spare time; hobbies and activities**

- *Den farliga leken*, del 4
- hobbies and activities Sweden vs US
- ads; Uppsala Nya Tidning, Uppsalatidningen, Ergo student paper

Homework: plan the weekend

Session 9, May 22 **Traveling**

- booking tickets
- online reservation
- plan a trip

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 5.

Write: letter to go with job applications

Session 10, May 23 **Family**

- *Den farliga leken*, del 5
- the nucleus family vs blended families
- 'kaffe latte-pappa'; parent roles in Sweden vs US
- review family names extended family
- writing personal letters

Homework: Write a letter home.

For quiz 3: Family names, appearance and character traits, occupations, greeting phrases job emails.

Session 11, May 24 **Housing**

- Quiz 3
- review types of housing, rooms, furniture

- housing ads and listings
- making inquiries
- stating preferences
- compare house prices and living costs

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 6.

Essay: To Mars. You are relocating to Mars to start a new civilization. You get to choose 5 people to come with you, based on their occupations and the skills they can bring to the new world. Who do you choose and why?

Session 12, May 28 **Getting sick**

- *Den farliga leken*, del 6
- going to the doctor
- describing ailments
- Swedish Health Care

Homework: Phrases at the doctor. Interview Swedish people about the Swedish Health Care system.

Session 13, May 29 **Student life – ‘nations’**

- applying and being accepted into university
- student life – courses, schedule, tests...
- nations, singing
- US student life vs Swedish student life

Homework: *Den farliga leken*, del 7
Share your favorite student song.

Session 14, May 30 **Final Exam and Oral Exam**

Written exam based on vocabulary and grammar covered during course.

Oral exam will be based on novel read together, especially part 7 and a summary of the novel. Focus will be on pronunciation and use of vocabulary learnt during the course.

Session

Work

- work ads
- occupations
- AF, forms
- how to write personal statements and resumes
- job emails
- practice – interview

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