Britain and Scandinavia 1800 to Present:

Comparative and Transnational Perspectives

University of Helsinki, 2015 – 5 cr.

The main objectives of this course are twofold.

Firstly, it aims to enhance knowledge of the geopolitics and history of the Nordic region, by challenging the mental geography of the students and demonstrating that Scandinavia has often played an important strategic role in international power politics.

Secondly, the course examines aspects of both British / Irish history, politics, culture and society in direct comparison with / contrast to the Nordic region. It is hoped that this will allow students to see certain issues in British and Irish history in a broader context than is usually the case: this will encompass historical issues such as the rise of romantic nationalism and demands for home rule in the nineteenth century, the growth of organised labour, and contemporary questions such as the future of the welfare state, attitudes to Europe, and the idea of ‘neutrality’ in post-Soviet Europe.

Tuesday 12:15-13.45 (Metsätalo U40 s.13)

Thursday 12:15-13:45 (Metsätalo U40 s.8)

ASSESSMENT:

This five credit course will be assessed by two pieces of written work.

The first submission, due on 22 Feb. 2015, will be approx. 3 page review of a travel account. By 20 Jan. 2015, all students should have submitted a list of five potential books for review. There will be an opportunity to discuss the various accounts in the seminar on 12 Feb. 2015.

The second submission, due on 29 Mar. 2015, will be approx. 7-8 page essay on a topic relating to the course (essay titles to be agreed with the course organiser).
REVISED TIMETABLE January 2015

13 Jan. 2015  Introduction 1: Course & Assessment Outline.
15 Jan. 2015  Introduction 2: Defining Britain and Scandinavia – Historical, Cultural and Geographical Perspectives.

[20 Jan. 2015: DEADLINE FOR LIST OF 5 POTENTIAL TRAVEL BOOKS FOR REVIEW]

22 Jan. 2015  Lecture 2: Language, Nationalism and Identity: Connections, Comparisons and Contrasts in the Nineteenth Century (Scotland-Norway; Ireland-Finland)

27 Jan. 2015  Lecture 3: Race, Hope and Charity: British reactions to famine in Ireland, Sweden and Finland, c. 1845-1870

5 Feb. 2015  Lecture 6: Britain, Scandinavia and War, c. 1854-1945

12 Feb. 2015  Seminar: Travel Writing Discussion & Drafts

17 Feb. 2015  Independent Study Week
19 Feb. 2015  Independent Study Week

[22 Feb. 2015: DEADLINE for TRAVEL WRITING ASSIGNMENT]

24 Feb. 2015  Lecture 8: Norden and the Scottish Parliament
26 Feb. 2015  Lecture 9: Modern Britain and the Scandinavian Ideal

[29 Mar. 2015: DEADLINE for FINAL ESSAY]

AGN 5 Jan. 2015