

DIS Spring 2012
Danish Language I & II, Section 141
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 13:15 – 14:35; Room: 10-A35
A 6-credit course

Course Instructor:

Mogens Ørting Larsen is a Certified Language Instructor of Danish as a Foreign and Second Language, The Danish University of Education, Copenhagen 2001. He has taught at DIS since 2007.

DIS Contacts:

Mogens Ørting Larsen
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Language ability and cultural sensitivity are closely connected - studying Danish while living in Denmark is a unique opportunity for you to study another language and another culture, thus giving you the opportunity to experience your own language and culture from another perspective. In general, you get the opportunity to see the world through a different pair of glasses. It is always a challenge for the first time to speak a foreign language, however, being adventurous, and giving it a try is worth the effort.

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” (Andre Gide)

Content:

This class will focus on the Danish language. We will work intensively with the spoken everyday language, and with slightly more complex written texts. Literature, movies, music, politics and cultural issues will be discussed in class; furthermore, students' personal experiences while living in Denmark will be one of the cornerstones of the class. The aim is to help each student gain the experience of being an active participant in the Danish society rather than just a tourist passing by.

Objectives:

Develop a basic understanding of the Danish language including grammar, vocabulary and correct pronunciation. The textbook DIS DANSK I + II provides basic communicative competency in Danish. The lessons guide the student step by step into modern Danish; as the main emphasis is on communicative competencies, the grammatical rules are not the beginning and end of the lesson, but are second to the needs of communication.

First language, then grammar. Phrases and appropriate language for specific situations are analyzed in order to comprehend grammatical rules. At the end of the semester you will be able to engage in basic everyday conversations with a Dane, while applying the proper cultural sensitivities relevant to Danish society.

To teach students:

- enough Danish for them to live among Danes without feeling linguistically isolated.
- how to use and understand Danish Level I & II vocabulary.
- how to comprehend the main ideas and content of selected contemporary popular Danish songs.
- how to read, with increased understanding, texts from Danish newspapers.
- how to participate in classroom discussions on texts from textbook as well as texts from Danish songs and newspaper articles.
- how to write one page compositions in Danish on various themes.
- how to better understand one's own linguistic and cultural heritage as well as the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Danes.

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To give students:

- the possibility of using their first-hand observations and experiences while living in Denmark to critically analyze contemporary life through a comparative lens, thus obtaining a new understanding of their own background.
- the experience of being well informed and perceptive residents in Denmark.

Culture:

Establish a basic understanding of Danish history, society, culture and way of life, and thus being able to decode Danish culture. Develop a keen sensitivity to the role and importance culture plays in inter-personal and business communications throughout the world.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester:

- Students will be able to engage in basic everyday conversation with a Dane using and understanding Danish Level I & II vocabulary.
- Students will be able to apply the proper cultural sensitivities relevant to Danish society.
- Students will be able to discuss personal and simple social topics with grammatical accuracy and speed.
- Students will be able to comprehend the main ideas and content of selected contemporary popular Danish songs.
- Students will be able to read with increased understanding texts from Danish newspapers.
- Students will be able to participate in classroom discussions on texts from textbook as well as texts from Danish songs and newspaper articles.
- Students will be able to write one page compositions in Danish on various themes.
- Students will be able to analyse their own language and culture from another perspective – thus seeing the world through a different pair of glasses.

Format of the Course:

- The class meets four times a week
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday -- 13:15 – 14:35
- 46 sessions in the semester

The Language:

is taught using “DIS DANSK I and II.” The in-class focus is on speaking and listening comprehension, and during class you will be asked to practice speaking Danish either with a partner and/or in small groups, and often the homework will include you speaking with a Dane. Furthermore, we will spend quite a lot of time on pronunciation (since this constitutes one of the bigger challenges of learning Danish). Danish newspaper articles and Danish popular songs will be used throughout the semester.

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The Cultural Part:

will be imbedded in the language and consist of short texts in Danish about Contemporary Denmark, Danish history and famous Danes. Danish culture will be discussed all along and here your own experiences and observations are of utmost value. An important aim of the course is to strengthen your ability to navigate in an international world, and your active participation is therefore extremely important not only in class but also outside the classroom.

You are expected to bring your observations and experiences to class for analysis and discussions.

Furthermore, Danish music, Danish literature in English, and newspaper articles will be used as “openers” to Danish culture and society.

Homework:

Plan to do 1-2 hours of homework for each class meeting. 15% of the final grade is based on preparation of daily assignments, active participation in class, ability to respond when called upon and speaking Danish in class. Being prepared for class is one of the key factors that determines whether or not students succeed in Danish. A general guideline is to prepare for each class as if you were having a quiz on the material covered in the preceding class. Quizzes will be given as needed. Students who come to class prepared will have more opportunity to participate. There will be both oral and written assignments for each class.

Papers:

3 - 5 short essays **in Danish** about for example:

- Myself
- My Family
- My Travels / Study tours
- My Future

(All essays must be typed, double spaced, spell-checked, handed in on time and include a word total at the bottom of the page.)

Individual Presentations:

Each student will give 4 – 5 (PowerPoint) presentations **in Danish** during the semester about, for example:

- Min familie (My Family)
- Min efterårsferie (Fall vacation / Study Tour)
- Mine fremtidsplaner (Plans for the Future)
- Min bedste ven (My Best Friend)

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Field Studies / Experiential Learning:

1. FS: Soccer Match: Date and time TBA
2. FS: Wednesday, February 1, 13:00 – 17:00 (Activity to be decided in class)
3. FS: Wednesday, February 15, 8.30-12.30 (Activity to be decided in class)
4. FS: Wednesday, February 29, 13:00-17:00 (Activity to be decided in class)
5. FS: Wednesday, March 28, 13:00-17:00 (Activity to be decided in class)

The purpose of the FS is to use Copenhagen as our extended DIS classroom, and to offer students experiences they wouldn't otherwise have and to engage and motivate students in the process. Material covered during FS will be included in tests and quizzes.

Danish film and TV Series:

There will be an introduction to the Danish TV Series "Matador": Thursday, February 23

There will be a Danish film session: Tuesday, March 13 (Movie to be decided in class)

Approach to teaching and what is expected of students:

The teaching style of this class will be very interactive. I expect all students to actively participate in each class. I expect you to have done the reading and other homework for each class and to come to class with notes, questions and relevant observations to generate interesting and thought provoking discussions. Part of the in-class focus is on speaking, reading, and listening comprehension, and during class you will often be asked to practice speaking Danish either with a partner and/or in small groups. Be aware that just coming to class and sitting passively and inactive is an attitude that will not be rewarded.

To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work

Grading elements:

Participation	15%
Quizzes and short essays	15%
Individual in class presentations	15%
Written Midterm	10%
Oral Midterm	10%
Written Final	20%
Oral Final	15%

Assignments, papers, and exams:

- Quiz in class: Will take place frequently during the semester (in class)
- Oral Midterm: Thursday, March 29 (in class)
- Written Midterm: Friday, March 30 (in class)
- Written Final : Thursday, May 10 (in class)
- Oral Final will take place between Monday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 16!

Continue learning outside the classroom:

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While living and studying in Denmark, you can immerse yourself in the culture in a variety of ways. Try these:

- Watch Danish movies and TV Series with English subtitles (can be borrowed from DIS and watched in the DIS Movie Theatre
- Watch American sitcoms with Danish subtitles
- Turn off your iPod on trains and busses and LISTEN to what is being said around you
- Watch the news in Danish (DR1 and TV2)
- Make a daily habit of reading and translating the headlines of the newspapers
- Observe advertising in Danish as you see it when moving around in the city...etc.

Disabilities:

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Sean Green (sgr@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes.

Policies:

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but you might need to provide a doctor's note. Being late to class will also have a negative impact on your final grade

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment

DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of "F" and can result in dismissal. The students' home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the *Academic Handbook* for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

Classroom etiquette:

Use of laptops is not permitted during class meeting times. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and stored away.

Schedule is subject to change if necessary with as much notice as possible!