This course will explore SEDUCTION in and through a variety of major Scandinavian texts in three key genres: the novel, the short story and the play. We’ll use seduction to better understand what genre is and what it does, and we’ll use GENRE to better understand what seduction is and what it does. More than just a theme, seduction is an embodied rhetorical and narrative practice that cuts straight to the heart of questions of how gender, morality, rationality, and volition are constructed as categories. As we read new and old masterpieces of Scandinavian literature we’ll ask questions like: How does a text distinguish between seducer and seduced? When does seduction actually happen and how can we tell? How can textual bodies represent interior experience? Is it possible to represent psychological aspects of seduction at all? What do such representations accomplish ideologically or politically? Students will gain familiarity with some key figures in the Scandinavian cannon and study concrete stylistics with which to compare texts. These include: different narration and performance techniques, focalization, manipulations of time and space at the level of plot, and genre distinctions.

All texts will be in English.
This course fulfills Arts and Letters and International Cultures Requirements.