

## HISTORY 05.66.01

### History of Iceland from the Settlement to the Present

University of Iceland - Department of History

Spring 2005

#### **Lecturers:**

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Nýi Garður, room 60 (on the top floor)

#### **Timetable**

Tuesdays 11:05-12:45, room 101 in Árnagarður  
Thursdays 11:05-12:45, room 311 in Árnagarður

The course begins on Jan. 11 and ends on April 19. The course examination will be in the period from April 29 to May 15.

#### **Purpose:**

This course will survey the political, social, and economic development of Iceland from the 10<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will be divided into two parts: the first one covers the period from the 10<sup>th</sup> century to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (parts I-II in the textbook) and will be taught by Sverrir Jakobsson. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson will teach the second part, focusing on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (parts III-IV in the textbook). Most required readings for this course will be on reserve (Námsbókasafn) on the third floor in the main university library building (Þjóðarbókhlaða).

#### **Textbook:**

Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 Years. The History of a Marginal Society*, (London, Hurst & Co., and Reykjavík, Mál og menning, 2000). Available in Bóksala stúdenta and the bookshop Mál og Menning on Laugavegur.

#### **Course Requirements:**

- 1) Final examination (70%)
- 2) One research paper (30%) about 8-10 pages long (2,500-3,500 words). Students should select their paper topic in consultation with the instructors. The paper must include footnotes and a bibliography.
- 3) Two short oral presentations (10-15 minutes).
- 4) Class participation.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### History of Iceland from the Settlement to the Present

#### Week 1

January 11<sup>th</sup> Course Introduction.

January 13<sup>th</sup> The settlement in a historical context - Pagan society.  
Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4 (pages 9-31).

#### Supplementary reading:

Jón Steffensen, „Aspects of Life in Iceland in the Heathen Period“, *Saga Book*, 17 (1966), 177-205.

Smith, Kevin P., „Landnám: the settlement of Iceland in archaeological and historical perspective“, *World Archaeology* 26 (1995), 319-347.

Sveinbjörn Rafnsson, *Studier i Landnámabók: Kritiska bidrag till den isländska fristatstidens historia*. Bibliotheca historica Lundensis 33 (Lund, 1974).

#### Week 2

January 18<sup>th</sup> Christianity; church and religion: conversion, institutions, and culture from the year 1000 to the 13th century.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 1.5; 1.6; 2.2 (pages 33-38; 96-100)

#### Supplementary reading:

Byock, Jesse, *Medieval Iceland, Society, Sagas and Power* (Berkeley, California, 1988), pp. 137-64.

Jón Jóhannesson, *A History of the Old Icelandic Commonwealth* (Winnepeg 1974).

Orri Vésteinsson, *The Christianization of Iceland* (Oxford, 1996).

Strömbäck, Dag, *The Conversion of Iceland. A survey* (London, 1975).

January 20<sup>th</sup> Medieval culture and society.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 1.7; 1.8; 1.9; 1.10; 1.11 (pages 44-71)

#### Supplementary reading:

- Bagge, Sverre, „Det politiske menneske og det førstatlige samfunn“, *Historisk tidsskrift*, 68 (1989), 227-45.
- Bjarni Einarsson, „On the status of Free Men in Society and Saga“, *Medieval Scandinavia* 7 (1974) 45-55.
- Boyer, Régis, *La vie religieuse en Islande (1116-1264) d'après la Sturlunga Saga et les Sagas des Évêques* (Paris, 1979).
- Byock, Jesse, *Medieval Iceland, Society, Sagas and Power* (Berkeley, California, 1988), pp. 103-36;
- Johnsen, Arne Odd, *Fra ættesamfunn til statssamfunn* (Oslo, 1948).
- Simpson, Jacqueline, „Advocacy and Art in Guðmundar saga dýra“, *Saga-Book*, 15 (1957-1961), 327-45.
- Stein-Wilkeshuis, Martina, „The rights to Social Welfare in Early Medieval Iceland“, *Journal of Medieval History* 8 (1982), 343-352.
- Sørensen, Preben Meulengracht, *Saga og samfund. En indføring i oldislandsk litteratur*, København, 1977.
- Turville-Petre, Joan, „The Genealogist and History: Ari to Snorri,“ *Saga-Book* 20 (1978-81), 7-23.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- The position of women in medieval Icelandic society
- Feud in the Icelandic sagas. Literary construct or social reality?
- Law in a stateless society

### Week 3

January 25<sup>th</sup>

The 13th century; Breakup of the political system; conflicting factions. Developments in the relationship with the Norwegian kingdom.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 1.12; 1.13; 1.14 (pages 72-86)

Supplementary reading:

- Bagge, Sverre, „Snorri Sturluson und die europäische Geschichtsschreibung“, *Skandinavistik*, 20 (1990), 1-19.
- Boyer, Régis, „La guerre en Islande à l'âge des Sturlungar (XII-XIIIe siècles). Armement, tactique, esprit“, *Inter-Nord*, 11 (1970), 184-202.
- Byock, Jesse, „The Age of the Sturlungs“, *Continuity and Change: Political Institutions and Literature in the Middle Ages* (Proceedings of the Tenth International Symposium Organized by the Center for the Study of Vernacular Literature in the Middle Ages), ed. Elisabeth Vestergaard, Odense, 1986, 27-42.
- Ciklamini, Marlene, *Snorri Sturluson*, Boston, 1978.
- Einar Ólafur Sveinsson, *The Age of the Sturlungs: Icelandic Civilization in the Thirteenth Century*, (Islandica 36), transl. by Jóhann S. Hannesson, Ithaca, 1953.

Ólafía Einarasdóttir, „Skulis oprør og slaget ved Örlygsstaðir. Norsk og islandsk politik 1220-1240“, *Kongsmenn og krossmenn. Festskrift til Grethe Authén Blom* (Trondheim, 1992), 91-113.

Ólafía Einarasdóttir, „Om Samtidssagaens kildeværdi belyst ved Hákonar saga Hákonarsonar“, *Alvíssmál*, 5 (1995), 29-80.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Snorri Sturluson. His role in Icelandic politics and history
- The fall of the Icelandic Commonwealth. Accidental or inevitable?
- The role of the Church in arbitration and settlement of disputes

January 27<sup>th</sup> The Medieval church and its expansion

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters: 1.14; 2.1; 2.2; pages 83-99)

Supplementary reading:

Jochens, Jenny M., „The Church and Sexuality in Medieval Iceland“, *Journal of Medieval History* 6 (1980), 377-392.

Magnús Stefánsson, *Staðir og staðamál. Studier i islandske egenkirkelige og beneficalrettslige forhold i middelalderen I* (Bergen, 2000).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Monasteries in Iceland
- Icelandic saints. Legend and fact

Week 4

February 1<sup>st</sup> Iceland as a part of of the Norwegian kingdom 1260-1400). Economy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters: 2.3;2.4 (pages 100-110)

Supplementary reading:

Berlin, Knud, *Islands Statsrettslige Stilling efter Fristatstadiens Ophør. I. Islands Underkastelse under Norges Krone* (København, 1909).

Blom, Grethe Authén, *Magnus Eriksson og Island. Til belysning av periferi og sentrum i nordisk 1300-talls historie* (Oslo, 1983).

Helle, Knut, *Konge og gode menn i norsk riksstyring ca. 1150-1319* (Bergen–Oslo–Tromsø, 1972).

Jón Viðar Sigurðsson, „The Icelandic Aristocracy after the Fall of the Free State“, *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 20: 3 (1995), 153-66.

Sigurður Línal, „Retshistorie og politik. Om Islands statsrettslige stilling 1262–1662“, *Tidsskrift for rettsvitenskap*, 86 (1973), 590–611.

Stefán Karlsson, „Bóklausir menn“, *Sagnaskemmtun. Studies in Honour of Hermann Pálsson* (Wien, 1986), 277-86.  
Porkell Jóhannesson, *Die Stellung der freien Arbeiter in Island bis zur Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts* (Reykjavík, 1933).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Trade and sustinence in the Icelandic Economy
- Book culture in Medieval Iceland

February 3<sup>rd</sup>                    The English and the German Era; 1400-1550.  
Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 2.5; 2.6; 2.7 (pages 111-127).

Supplementary reading:

Árni Daníel Júlíusson, *Bønder i pestens tid. Landbrug, godsdrift og social konflikt i senmiddelalderens islandske bondesamfund* (København, 1996).  
Baasch, Ernest, „Die Islandfahrt der Deutschen, namentlich der Hamburger vom 15. bis 17. Jahrhundert“, *Forschung zur hamburgischen Handelsgeschichte*, I (Hamburg, 1889), 1–136.  
Björn Þorsteinsson, „Henry VIII and Iceland“, *Saga-Book*, 15 (1957–1961), 67–101.  
Björn Þorsteinsson, „Island“, *Hansestæderne og Norden. Det nordiske historikermøde i Århus 7.-9. august 1957* (2. opl., Århus, 1972), 165-95.  
Björn Þorsteinsson, *Island. Politikens Danmarkshistorie* (København, 1985).  
Childs, Wendy, „England's Icelandic Trade in the Fifteenth Century“, *Northern Seas. Yearbook* (1995).  
*Desertion and Land Colonization in the Nordic Countries c. 1300-1600* (1981).  
Gunnar Karlsson, „Plague Without Rats: The Case of Fifteenth Century Iceland“, *Journal of Medieval History*, 22 (1996), 263–84.  
Stefán Karlsson, „Islandsk bogeksport til Norge i middelalderen“, *Maal og minne* (1979), 1–17.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- The Icelandic system of landholding
- The Plague in Iceland: Social consequences

## Week 5

February 3<sup>rd</sup>                    The church in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, The Reformation.  
Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 2.8 (pages 128-133),

Supplementary reading:

Hastrup, Kirsten: *Nature and Policy in Iceland 1400-1800. An Anthropological Analysis of History and Mentality*, Oxford 1990.

Lausten, Martin Schwarz, *Christian den 3. og kirken 1537–1559* (København, 1987).

*Reformationen i Norden. Kontinuitet och fornyelse*, red. Carl-Gustaf Andrén (Lund, 1973).

Vilborg Auður Ísleifsdóttir, *Die Einführung der Reformation in Island 1537-1565* (Frankfurt am Main, 1996).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- German merchants and the Lutheran reformation
- Were 16th Icelanders proto-nationalists?
- Catholic remnants in the 17th century

February 10<sup>h</sup>

The strengthening of kingship.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters 1.10; 2.12; 2.13 (pages 130-142; 149-168).

Supplementary reading:

Gísli Gunnarsson, *Monopoly Trade and Economic Stagnation. Studies in the Foreign*

*Trade of Iceland 1602-1787* (Lund 1983).

Gustafsson, Harald: *Mellan kung och almoge. ämbetsmän, beslutsprocess och inflytande på 1700-talets Island* (Stockholm 1985).

Friedrike Christiane Koch, *Isländer in Hamburg. Untersuchungen über den Aufenthalt von Isländern in Hamburg für den Zeitraum 1520–1662* (Hamburg, 1995).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- The Danish administration in Early modern Iceland
- Trade and piracy in Icelandic waters in the 17<sup>th</sup> century

Week 6

February 15<sup>h</sup>

Lutheran society; 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; demography and life.

Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapters: 2.9; 2.11; 2.14; 2.17 (pages 134-137; 143-148; 161-168; 177-181).

Supplementary reading:

Björn Lárússon, „Valuation and Distribution of Landed Property in Iceland“, *Economy and History* 4 (1961), 34-64.

Björn Lárusson, *The Old Icelandic Land Registers* (Lund, 1967).  
 Loftur Guttormsson, „Læsefærdighed og folkeuddannelse 1540-1800. Island,“ *Ur nordisk kulturhistoria. Läskunnighet och folkbildning före folkskoleväsendet* (Studia historica jväsckyläensia 22,3), red. M. Jokipii og I. Nummela (Jväsckylä, 1981), 123–191.  
 Loftur Guttormsson, „The Development of Popular Religious Literacy in the Seventeenth and the Eighteenth Centuries“, *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 15 (1990), 7–35.  
 Sigurður Pétursson, „Latin Teaching in Iceland after the Reformation“, *Reformation and Latin Literature in Northern Europe* (Oslo, 1996).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Population change in Iceland
- Education and literacy in 18<sup>th</sup> century Iceland

February 17<sup>th</sup>                      The Enlightenment: 1750-1830. Commercial liberty and Economic hardship  
 Readings: Gunnar Karlsson: *Iceland's 1100 years*, Chapter: 2.15 (pages 169-92).

Supplementary reading:

Ingi Sigurðsson, *The Historical Works of Jón Espólín and his Contemporaries. Aspects of Icelandic Historiography* (Edinburgh, 1972).  
 Loftur Guttormsson, „Pietism and the Definition of Childhood“, *History of Education* 20 (1991), 27–35.  
 Loftur Guttormsson, „Familien“ & „Husholdet“, *Den nordiske verden*, 2. b., red. Kirsten Hastrup (København, 1992), 167–201.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Pestilence or economic hardship? How the Icelanders viewed the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Government reform plans and the Icelandic reality
- The system of „free trade“ and the growth of Icelandic townships

## Week 7

February 22+24                      Reading Week, no classes

## **Weeks 8-13 PART II: END OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY**

(pp. 195-366 in *Iceland's 1100 Years*)

Two main themes will be discussed each week. A lecture on each theme will be followed by a seminar with questions, a student presentation and discussions. Suggestions for reading for each theme are not exhaustive. Further sources will be added during the course. Students are also encouraged to conduct their own search for sources, for instance at the Þjóðarbókhlaða, Reykjavík City Library, and in some cases on the Internet. The following themes will be discussed:

- 1) “National Awakening”: From Foreign Domination to Home Rule, 1809-1918
- 2) “Industrial Revolution”: Social and Economic Change in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- 3) Modern Iceland in the Making? The Birth of the Political Party System and Crisis in the 1930s
- 4) From Isolation to Importance: World Wars and Independence
- 5) Reluctant Ally: Iceland during and after the Cold War
- 6) Troubled Waters: The Cod Wars and the Struggle for Sovereignty in the Waters off Iceland, 1948-76
- 7) “Independent People”? Iceland and European Integration
- 8) “Iceland for Icelanders”? Nationalism and Attitudes towards Foreigners in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 9) Coalitions and the “Four-Party System”: Party Politics after the Second World War
- 10) Conservation vs. Utilization: Whaling, Heavy Industry and Hydroelectric Power
- 11) Feminism and Women’s Rights in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 12) Summary: Changes in Icelandic Society in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

All these themes, as well as the themes for discussion in each session, can serve as essay titles (with the exception of the themes for discussion in the last session).

### **Week 8**

*March 1. “National Awakening”: From Foreign Domination to Home Rule, 1809-1918*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 195-223, 267-286

Supplementary reading:

Anna Agnarsdóttir, “Great Britain and Iceland 1800-1820” (PhD thesis, 1989)

Derek McKay, “Great Britain and Iceland in 1809.” *The Mariner's Mirror*, 59:1 (1973).

Hallgrímur Sveinsson, *The National Hero of Iceland, Jón Sigurdsson. A Concise Biography*. Translated by Hermann Pálsson (Hafnseyri, 1996).

Gudmundur Hálfðanarson, “Social Distinctions and National Unity: On Politics of Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Iceland,” *History of European Ideas*, 21:6 (1995), pp. 763-79



Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, "Defining the Modern Citizen: Debates on Civil and Political Elements of Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century Iceland," *Scandinavian Journal of History* 24 (1999), pp. 103-16.

Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, "Iceland: A Peaceful Secession," *Scandinavian Journal of History* 25 (2000), pp. 87-100.

Gunnar Karlsson, "Icelandic Nationalism and the Inspiration of History," in Rosalind Mitchison (ed.), *The Roots of Nationalism* (Edinburgh, 1980), pp. 77-89.

Gunnar Karlsson, "Folk og nation på Island," *Scandia*, 53 (1987), pp. 129-45.

Gunnar Karlsson, "The Emergence of Nationalism in Iceland," in Sven Tägil (ed.), *Ethnicity and Nation Building in the Nordic World* (London, 1995), pp. 33-62.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- The "phony revolution" of 1809 and Iceland's ties with Britain and Denmark
- How important was the individual role of Jón Sigurdsson in the Icelandic struggle for increased autonomy?
- What were the basic tenets of Icelandic nationalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

March 3. "Industrial Revolution": Social and Economic Change in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 224-266, 287-296

Supplementary reading:

Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, "Old Provinces, Modern Nations: Political Responses to State Integration in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Iceland and Brittany" (Dissertation: Cornell University, 1991).

Helgi Skúli Kjartansson, "Emigrant fares and emigration from Iceland to North America, 1874-1893," *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 28:1 (1980).

Jón Þ. Þór, "The Beginnings of British-Steam Trawling in Icelandic Waters," *Mariner's Mirror*, 74:3 (1988).

Jón Þ. Þór, *British Trawlers in Icelandic Waters* (Reykjavík, 1992).

Magnús L. Magnússon, *Iceland in Transition. Labour and Socio-Economic Change before 1940* (Lund, 1985).

Guðmundur Jónsson, "Changes in Food Consumption in Iceland ca. 1770-1940," in J. Söderberg and L. Magnusson (eds.), *Kultur och konsumtion i Norden 1750-1950* (Helsingfors, 1995).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- What caused the crisis in rural society at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- The emigration to America
- How, when and why did the "Industrial revolution" take place in Iceland?

## Week 9

March 8. *Modern Iceland in the Making? The Birth of the Political Party System and Crisis in the 1930s*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 292-312

Supplementary reading:

Magnús L. Magnússon, *Iceland in Transition. Labour and Socio-Economic Change before 1940* (Lund, 1985).

Stefán Hjartarsson, *Kampen om Fackföreningsrörelsen. Ideologi och politisk aktivitet på Island 1920-1938* (Stockholm, 1989).

Ingólfur V. Gíslason, *Enter the Bourgeoisie: Aspects of the Formation and Organization of Icelandic Employers, 1894-1934* (Lund, 1990).

Sigfús Jónsson, "Newfoundland and Iceland. A Comparative Development," in Haraldur Bessason, (ed.), *Líf undir leiðarstjórn* (Akureyri 1994).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Describe the beginnings of class politics in Iceland
- The Great Depression in Iceland: Was the country close to bankruptcy?

*March 10. From Isolation to Importance: World Wars and Independence*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 313-324

Supplementary reading:

Sólrún B. Jensdóttir, *Anglo-Icelandic relations during the First World War* (Dissertation, 1986)

Sólrún B. Jensdóttir, "The Republic of Iceland 1940-1944: Anglo-American attitudes and influences," *Journal of Contemporary History*, IX (1974).

Donald Bittner, *The Lion and the White Falcon. Britain and Iceland in the World War II Era* (Hamden, Conn., 1983).

Bára Baldursdóttir, *This rot spreads like an epidemic: policing adolescent female sexuality in Iceland during World War II* (Dissertation: College Park, Maryland, 2000).

Inga Dóra Björnsdóttir, "Public View and Private Voices", in Paul Durrenberger and Gísli Pálsson (eds.), *The Anthropology of Iceland* (Iowa City, 1989), 98-118.

George R. Wren, *Iceland in World War Two: a G.I.'s memoirs* (Saint Louis, Mo., 1996).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Why did Britain occupy Iceland in the Second World War?
- What impact did the British and the American presence have on Icelandic society during the Second World War?
- How did the Second World War affect the Icelandic economy?

## **Week 10**

*March 15. Reluctant Ally: Iceland during and after the Cold War*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 313-324

Þór Whitehead, *The Ally who Came in from the Cold* (Reykjavík, 1998), OR

Valur Ingimundarson, *The Struggle for Western Integration. Iceland, the United States, and NATO during the First Cold War* (Oslo, 1999).

Supplementary reading:

Philip William Calvert, *Uncertainty and dissent: Iceland in the post-Cold War world* (Ann Arbor, Mi., 1999).

Valur Ingimundarson, "Buttressing the West in the North: The Atlantic Alliance, Economic Warfare, and the Soviet Challenge in Iceland, 1956-1959," *International History Review*, 21:1, 1999, 80-103.

Donald Nuechterlein, *Iceland: Reluctant Ally* (Ithaca, NY, 1961).

Benedikt Gröndal, *Iceland: From Neutrality to NATO Membership* (Oslo, 1991).

Albert Jónsson, *Iceland, NATO, and the Keflavik Base* (Reykjavik, 1989).

Michael T. Corgan, *Iceland and Its Alliances: Security for a Small State* (Lewiston, NY, 2003).

Elfar Loftsson, *Island i NATO – partierna och försvarsfrågan* (Göteborg, 1981).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Describe the opposition to NATO membership and the US presence in Iceland during the Cold War
- What role did Iceland play in US strategic thinking?
- Did Icelandic policymakers (ab)use Iceland's strategic importance during the Cold War?

*March 17. Troubled Waters: The Cod Wars and the Struggle for Sovereignty in the Waters off Iceland, 1948-76*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 342-347

Jón Þ. Þór, *British Trawlers and Iceland, 1919-1976*, 141-235, OR

Hannes Jónsson, *Friends in Conflict. The Anglo-Icelandic Conflict and the Law of the Sea* (London, 1982), 69-187

Supplementary reading:

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, *Troubled Waters. Cod War, Fishing Disputes, and Britain's Fight for the Freedom of the High Seas, 1948-64* (Dissertation, London, 2003).

Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, „How Cod War Came. The Origins of the Anglo-Icelandic Fishing Dispute, 1958-61”. *Historical Research*, 77:198, 2004, 543-574

Valur Ingimundarson, "Fighting the Cod Wars in the Cold War: Iceland's Challenge to the Western Alliance in the 1970s," *RUSI Journal*, 148:3, 2003, 88-94.

Andrew Gilchrist, *Cod Wars and How to Lose Them* (Edinburgh, 1978).

Benedikt Gröndal, *Iceland: From Neutrality to NATO Membership* (Oslo, 1991).

Michael T. Corgan, *Iceland and Its Alliances: Security for a Small State* (Lewiston, NY, 2003)

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Why did Iceland have its way in the Cod Wars?
- Was "right" always on Iceland's side in the Cod Wars?

## **Week 11**

*March 22. "Independent People"? Iceland and European Integration*

Required reading:

Guðmundur Jónsson, *“Nothing to expect but trouble:” Iceland’s response to European economic integration, 1945-1960* (2001), OR  
Einar Benediktsson, *Iceland and European Development* (Reykjavík, 2003).

Supplementary reading:

Baldur Þórhallsson, *On the Edge: Iceland and European integration* (London, 2004).

Baldur Þórhallsson, “Consequences of a small administration: the case of Iceland,” in Clive Archer and Neill Nugent (eds.), *Small States and the European Union* (Huntington, NY, 2002).

Þorvaldur Gylfason, “Nordic integration and European integration,” in Jürgen von Hagen and Mika Widgren (eds.), *Regionalism in Europe. Geometries and strategies after 2000* (Boston, 2001).

Kenneth Hanf and Ben Sootendorp (eds.), *Adapting to European integration: small states and the European Union* (London, 1998).

Kristján Jóhannesson, *De islandske eksporterhverv og EF’s indre marked* (Reykjavík, 1989).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Why has Iceland not joined the European Union or its predecessors?
- Have the states of the EU or its predecessors ever had a real interest in Icelandic membership?

## **Week 12**

March 31. *“Iceland for Icelanders”?* Nationalism and Attitudes towards Foreigners in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Required reading:

Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, “Iceland: A Peaceful Secession,” *Scandinavian Journal of History* 25 (2000), 87-100.

Supplementary reading:

Þorgerður Hrönn Þorvaldsdóttir, “The amazing beauty of Icelandic women, nationalism, purity and the “American gaze”” (Dissertation: New York, 1998).

Inga Dóra Björnsdóttir, *Nationalism, gender and the contemporary Icelandic women's movement* (Dissertation: Santa Barbara, 1992).

Guðmundur Hálfðanarson, “Icelandic nationalism. A non-violent paradigm?” in Guðmundur Hálfðanarson and Ann Katherine Isaacs (eds.), *Nations and nationalities in historical perspective* (Pisa, 2001).

Sigríður Matthíasdóttir, “The Renovation of Native Pasts. A Comparison between Aspects of Icelandic and Czech Nationalist Ideology,” *The Slavonic and East European Review*, 78:4, (2000), pp. 688-709.

Sigríður Matthíasdóttir, “The Nation as a Golden Age Man. Gender and Nation in Early Twentieth Century Iceland,” in *Internationalisation in the History of Northern Europe. Report of the Nordsaga ’99 Conference, University of Tromsø, 17-21 Nov. 1999* (Tromsø, 2000), pp. 23-36.

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Can Icelandic nationalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century be described as a positive force, as opposed to aggressive nationalism, racism and xenophobia?
- Describe Iceland’s official policy towards foreigners and immigration in the

20<sup>th</sup> century

- What role has womanhood played in the definition and defence of Icelandic nationalism?

### **Week 13**

*April 5. Coalitions and the "Four-Party System": Party Politics after the Second World War*

Required reading:

Gunnar Karlsson, *Iceland's 1100 Years*, 324-335, 348-360

Supplementary reading:

Thorleifur Fridriksson: *Den gyldne Flue. De skandinaviske socialdemokratiers relationer til den islandske arbejderbevægelse 1916-56. Internationalismen eller indblanding?* (Copenhagen, 1990).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Describe the political party system in Iceland in the post-war period
- Why did the Social Democrats never become as strong in Iceland as in Scandinavia?

*April 7. Conservation vs. Utilization: Whaling, Heavy Industry and Hydroelectric Power*

Required reading:

Karen Oslund, "Imagining Iceland: Narratives of Nature and History in the North Atlantic," *British Journal for the History of Science*, 35:3 (Sept. 2002).

Supplementary reading:

Susan De Muth, "Power Driven", *GuardianUnlimited*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/weekend/story/0,3605,1094541,00.html>

Skúli Sigurðsson, "The Dome of the World: Iceland, Doomsday Technologies, and the Cold War," in Ingi Sigurðsson and Jón Skaptason (eds.), *Aspects of Arctic and Sub-Arctic History: Proceedings of the International Congress on the History of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region, Reykjavik, 18-21 June 1998* (Reykjavik, 2000), pp. 475-485.

Anne Brydon, "Whale-Siting: Spatiality in Icelandic Nationalism," in Gísli Pálsson and E. Paul Durrenberger, *Images of Contemporary Iceland* (Iowa City, 1996).

Anne Brydon, *The eye of the guest: Icelandic nationalist discourse and the whaling issue* (Dissertation: McGill University, 1991)

Þóra Ellen Þórhallsdóttir, "Evaluating Nature and Wilderness in Iceland," in Alan Watson, Lilian Alessa and Janet Sproull (eds.), *Wilderness in the Circumpolar North: searching for compatibility in traditional, ecotourism, and ecological values; 2001 May 15-16; Anchorage, AK. Proceedings* (Ogden, UT, 2002), pp. 96-104.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_p026.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p026.pdf)

Internet sources:

<http://natturuvaktin.blogspot.com>

<http://www.mannvernd.is/>

<http://www.decode.is>

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Describe how nature and nationalism have been intertwined in Iceland since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Is the history of the harnessing of hydroelectric power in Iceland ..[?]

## **Week 14**

*April 12. Feminism and Women's Rights in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Supplementary reading:

Katherine Connor Martin, "Nationalism, Internationalism and gender in the Icelandic anti-base movement, 1945-1956" (Dissertation, Reykjavik, 2003).

Þorgerður Hrönn Þorvaldsdóttir, "The amazing beauty of Icelandic women, nationalism, purity and the "American gaze"" (Dissertation: New York, 1998).

Inga Dóra Björnsdóttir, *Nationalism, gender and the contemporary Icelandic women's movement* (Santa Barbara, 1992).

Bára Baldursdóttir, *This rot spreads like an epidemic: policing adolescent female sexuality in Iceland during World War II* (College Park, Maryland, 2000).

Inga Dóra Björnsdóttir, "Public View and Private Voices", in Paul Durrenberger and Gísli Pálsson (eds.), *The Anthropology of Iceland* (Iowa City, 1989), 98–118.

Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir: "Outside, Muted, and Different: Icelandic Women's Movements and Their Notions of Authority and Cultural Separateness." *The Anthropology of Iceland*. Ed. by E. Paul Durrenberger and Gísli Pálsson (1989).

(a search on "women AND Iceland" on the library search machine ([www.gegnir.is](http://www.gegnir.is)) gives 41 sources, most of them quite useful).

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Describe the main achievements of the women's liberation movement in Iceland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- What, if anything, has been unique about the women's liberation movement in Iceland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

*April 14. Summary: Changes in Icelandic Society in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Oral presentations and themes for discussion:

- Compare and contrast the history of Iceland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with that of your own country
- Did the transformation of Iceland from one of Europe's poorest nations to one of its wealthiest states have more to do with external circumstances than the energy and drive of the Icelanders themselves?