

IQP Project Denmark

Proposed 1995; initiated 1996; 12 teams



Center Directors:

Tom H. Tomsen

Peder C. Pedersen



PQP and IQP Overview:

- B-term: Broad cultural overview (1/6 unit)
- C-term: ID2050 (1/3 unit)
Proposal preparation (1/6 unit)*
- D-term: one week language and cultural orientation
IQP on-site (1 unit)

*Unless the ID2050 instructor is also the IQP advisor

IQP Project Denmark



B-term PQP objectives:

- Expose students to cultural, historical, social and political aspects of Denmark
 - Introduce students to current topics of Denmark by reading and discussing an online Danish newspaper
 - Have the advisor participate in the debate
 - Give students an opportunity to articulate their views on topics, such as cultural politics, expectation of citizenship
 - Give Center Directors, the advisor and the student an opportunity to know each other
-
- The material is discussed in debate format, with Tom, and Peder as moderators
 - A textbook, *Discover Denmark*, is assigned as source material, along with handouts and web links

B-term PQP requirements:

- Active participation in debate
- Group presentation on assigned literature reading
- Group paper on assigned literature reading
- Individual paper on topics such as:
 - The obligations and expectation of a citizen: US vs. Denmark
 - Denmark: A kingdom in the 21st century; is this really an anachronism?
 - Two political parties or ten? Compare the political landscapes of the US and Denmark
 - Government and the individual in Denmark
 - Denmark and the European Union. Is it a question of national identity and self-determination?
 - Immigrant in Denmark in the 21st Century
 - An evaluation of Denmark's social welfare policy. How does it compare to the US national policy

IQP Project Denmark

B-term PQP syllabus:

Schedule and Study Questions for Each Meeting:

October 25: *Introduction, Overview and Expectations*

November 1: *Denmark, a country with few natural resources. What factors allow this society to have a high standard of living?*

November 8: *Danish National Character (expanded next page)*

November 15: *Denmark and the world. Past and present.*

November 29: *Denmark, a welfare state. Reality or Myth*

December 6: *Danes and the arts and cultural activities. Past and present.*

December 13: *Meet the Danes; presentation of the IQP projects*

IQP Project Denmark

B-term PQP syllabus, cont'd:

November 8: Danish National Character

- Describe who Grundtvig was, his notion of enlightenment, and the concept of the folk high school. If possible, consider how his influence may be felt even today.
- Try to define national character and discuss the existence of a US national character
- Discuss the egalitarian values in the Danish society. How do these values, in your opinion, shape the daily lives of Danes today? What is the “Jante Law” and does it still play a part in Danish society?
- Discuss the concept of “Hygge” and give examples of what you understand “hygge” to be.
- How is national character expressed in the Danish living and working environment?
- Is Denmark the “happiest place on earth”?

Project Team Formation:

- At the last meeting before Christmas, Tom and Peder distribute a handout with the five project descriptions, and they give a more detailed oral presentation of the project
- The students vote by e-mail their 1st, 2nd and 3rd project choice
- Tom and Peder assemble the project teams, based on wishes, on gender mix, on mix of majors, and on individual strengths



C-term ID2050 objectives:

Course Goals/Measures (C-term, 2007):

- Completion of an IQP Proposal (Introduction, Background, Methodology, Bibliography, Preliminary Findings)
- Development of critical analytic skills—grasp of literature range, arguments, and viabilities
- Grasp of arguments concerning the meaning of Kierkegaard's work
- Development of oral and written presentation skills
- Mastery and utilization of team dynamics



IQP Project Denmark

C-term proposal preparation:

- The project proposal preparation is a coordinated effort between the advisor, the ID2050 instructor, and the IQP Denmark Center Directors
- The proposal preparation typically involves a smaller, parallel US study, interview of local experts, literature review, and contact with liaison in Denmark
- The project sponsor receives a paper and an electronic copy of the written project proposal a week before the students begin their project work
- Each project team makes three presentations
 - A midway presentation
 - An end-of-the-term presentation
 - A presentation to the project sponsor in Denmark during the first week of project work

D-term structure:

- Student must arrive in Copenhagen on a Monday, the day before D-term classes start at WPI
- Tuesday – Friday is orientation week (= first week on D-term)
- Week two through week eight (=7 weeks) is project work (in actuality, it is more like 6 weeks due to the Easter and other holidays)
- Week nine is project presentation week
 - Three presentations on Monday
 - Two presentations on Tuesday
 - Farewell dinner Tuesday night
 - Departing from apartment by 12 noon Wednesday

Orientation program objectives:

The four day long program is designed to:

- Familiarize the student with Copenhagen in general and the transportation system in particular
- Receiving Danish instruction, both as a cultural introduction and to make daily living more enjoyable
- Begin discovering the historic and cultural aspect of Copenhagen
- Overcoming jet lag



Orientation program schedule:

Monday:

- Be received in the Airport by Mogens Ørting Larsen
- Intro to apartment complex
- Bus and train passes
- Food shopping



IQP Project Denmark

Orientation program schedule:

Tuesday – Wednesday - Thursday:

- 8 AM: Take bus to Engineering College of Copenhagen
- 9AM – 12 noon: Danish lessons
- 2PM – 5PM: Cultural Program



IQP Project Denmark

Orientation program schedule:

Friday:

- 8 AM: Take bus to Engineering College of Copenhagen
- Afternoon travel by public transportation from apartment in Classensgade to project site (and back)
- 6 PM: End of Orientation Week Dinner



IQP Project Denmark

Orientation program schedule:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<p>3:30 pm: Orientation to 9 Smaa Hjem. Purchase of Bus passes and grocery shopping.</p>	<p>Approx: 2:30 pm Guided Walking tour of the Copenhagen city center including visit to the Round Tower and Copenhagen City Hall. Guided tour conducted by Mogens Larsen. Also time for practical matters such as bank, post office etc.</p>	<p>2:00 pm: Visit to the Danish Parliament - Meeting with MP Martin Lidegaard. Visit to the Royal Library and harbour bus to Christianshavn.</p>	<p>3:30 pm: Guided tour of The Victorian Home 5:00 pm Guided tour of Frederiksberg Palace. 6:30 – 8:30 pm A sandwich and a drink in Mogens Larsen's home on Frederiksberg Allé</p>
--	--	--	--

IQP Project Denmark

Comments to orientation program:

“Arriving in a foreign city is daunting. Having a week of lessons in the language of my host country was an absolute must, not that it taught me the language, but simply made me feel much more comfortable living and working among people speaking and reading a language entirely foreign to me. The notion of “culture shock”, I believe, was somewhat reduced, because of the orientation program.”



IQP Project Denmark

Comments to orientation program:

“ All these emotions have been transferred, in a way, to my project. Before the orientation, I was mildly excited about working everyday in a cool place on a cool project. Now, I have been rejuvenated, in a sense, in the way that summer often rejuvenates a student to put in his all at the beginning of A term. I am ready and willing to put my all into this project now, and I want to shoot for the moon, so to speak, and try to do all that I can to make a difference here and also write an effective and high quality report



IQP Project Denmark

Conclusions:

- We believe that the Denmark IQP Project Center's broad cultural and language introduction, both at WPI and in Denmark, matches with the mission of IGSD
- The transition from the US to the project site is made easier by a well-structured orientation week
- Denmark has proven to be both a popular and good site for IQP projects, since it offers a very different cultural experience and has very societal values, yet is easy to function in

IQP Project Denmark

