



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Languages

1EN142 Shakespeare och renässansens kultur, 15 högskolepoäng
Shakespeare and Renaissance culture, 15 credits

Main field of study

English, Comparative Literature

Subject Group

English

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2021-06-15

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

Prerequisites

General entry requirements + English 6.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- account for the historical and social context in which Shakespeare's drama and poetry were created;
- discern basic thematic and formal features of the original texts that are studied;
- account for important genre conventions in and genre history of the texts that are studied;
- relate today's critical perspectives on Shakespeare with views that prevailed in the 16th and 17th centuries;
- relate a number of Shakespeare's texts to the time period in which they were created, and relate contemporary conceptions about Shakespeare to the altered conceptions of later time periods.

Content

The course gives a comprehensive introduction to Shakespeare's works and their literary and historical context. Works from different genres are studied in relation to the time when they were created, performed and read. The course furthermore discusses how Shakespeare's works have become an important part of the English language cultural canon.

The course consists of two 7.5 credit modules:

Module 1. Tragedies and comedies (7.5 credits)

This module includes studies of a number of representative examples from Shakespeare's tragedies and comedies. The student retrieves and studies research articles of relevance to the course material and writes critical summaries of these articles.

Module 2. Chronicle plays and poetry (7.5 credits)

In this module examples of Shakespeare's chronicle plays, sonnets and long poems are discussed.

Type of Instruction

The course takes place entirely online. All communication is conducted via Linnaeus University's learning platform. In order to be able to complete the course assignments, the student needs to have access to a computer with a broadband connection. For information on technical requirements regarding computer equipment and internet connection, please visit the relevant page on www.lnu.se. The course consists of a number of seminars with assignments in which specific texts by Shakespeare are discussed from fundamental historical and critical perspectives.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student needs to achieve the course objectives. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction the student furthermore needs to demonstrate an excellent ability to independently reason and draw conclusions relative to the course material, as well as exhibit a very good command of the language, and an excellent ability to structure text in their hand-in assignments.

Module 1. Tragedies and comedies (7.5 credits) is examined through written hand-in assignments.

Module 2. Chronicle plays and poetry (7.5 credits) is examined through the writing of an individual essay linked to the course material.

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examinations at the first and second levels at Linnaeus University.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1EN121 (7.5 credits)

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading is listed below. If there are later editions of the books than those presented below, the later editions should be used instead.

de Grazia, Margreta & Wells, Stanley (eds.). 2010. *The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare* (Cambridge Companions to Literature). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 313 p. ISBN: 978-0521713931

Shakespeare, William. 2007. The Rape of Lucrece. In *Shakespeare's Poems*. Eds. Katherine Duncan-Jones and H.R. Woudhuysen. London: The Arden Shakespeare. 97 p. ISBN: 9781903436875

Shakespeare, William. *Richard III*. Ed. John Jowett. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. 357 p. ISBN 0192839934.

Shakespeare, William. *The Winter's Tale*. Ed. John Pitcher. The Arden Shakespeare. London: Bloomsbury, 2010. 347 p. ISBN 9781903436356.

Shakespeare, William. 2013. *Coriolanus*. London: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare. 503 p. ISBN 9781904271284.

Shakespeare, William. 2008. *The Merchant of Venice*. Ed. Jay L. Halio. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 240 p. ISBN: 9780199535859.

Shakespeare, William. 2002. *Richard II*. Ed. Charles R. Forker. London: The Arden Shakespeare. 612 p. ISBN: 978-1903436332.

Shakespeare, William. 2005. *Hamlet*. Eds. Ann Thompson and Neil Taylor. London: The Arden Shakespeare. 640 p. ISBN: 978-1904271338

Shakespeare, William. 2010. *The Sonnets*. Ed. Katherine Duncan-Jones. London: The Arden Shakespeare. 490 p. ISBN: 9781408017975

Online material, ca 300 pages.