



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

1KS112 Att skriva den samtida barnromanen, 15 högskolepoäng

Writing the Contemporary Children's Novel, 15 credits

### Main field of study

Creative Writing

### Subject Group

Creative Writing

### Level of classification

First Level

### Progression

G1N

### Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2021-06-21

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

### Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

## Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- identify and reflect upon literary quality relative to children's novels, based on their own and others' texts
- examine how different issues in the debate on children's novels affect their own and others' authorship in contemporary and historic times
- analyse how literary composition, language, style and form may be developed in their own and others' children's novels.

### Module 1: The context of the children's novel, 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for different aspects of what constitutes a children's perspective, and critically analyse how this affects their own authorship
- describe some historical or contemporary debates about children's literature, and critically analyse how these debates affect their own and others' children's novels
- critically analyse what constitutes literary quality as manifested in a number of children's novels, and examine the role of criticism of children's novels in the literary development of the genre
- reflect upon the form and language of the children's novel, today and in the past.

### Module 2: Project discussions, 7.5 credits

- present, and lead discussions on, one of their fellow students' novel project
- identify the child's perspective in their own and others' work with children's prose, and analyse literary choices in relation to this work
- analyse their own and others' work with children's prose in relation to contemporary and historical debates on children's literature,
- analyse form and language in their fellow students' drafts, and identify questions that may challenge them and promote literary development.

## Content

### **Module 1: The context of the children's novel, 7.5 credits**

This module analyses what constitutes a child's perspective, relative to the student's own and other's authorships. It presents a historical review of the children's novel as a genre, and discusses contemporary and historical debates about the children's novel, and the impact that these debates have had on literature. In seminar discussions and written reflections, the students explore how their own and others' authorships can be challenged, defined and developed from a literary point of view, and what role literary criticism may play in this.

### **Module 2: Project discussions, 7.5 credits**

This module is based on text discussions about the novel projects that the students bring with them to the course. The course does not examine the novel projects, but rather the students' ability to problematise and question these projects in order to challenge and develop them from a literary point of view. It also examines the students' ability to analyse the relation between language, form, themes and child perspectives.

## Type of Instruction

The course is offered as a distance course, via a digital learning platform. Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and individual studies in accordance with the course coordinator's instructions.

## Examination

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

Module 1 is examined through reflective discussions in speech and in writing, as well as through the student's own written reflections on their own and others' authorship, in the light of some of the questions raised in the module.

Module 2 is examined through the submission of an individual novel project, as well as through participation in, and leading of, discussions about the student's own and others' novel drafts.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. 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. 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.

## Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluations 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.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### **Module 1: The context of the children's novel, 7,5 credits**

Ehriander, Helene (ed). 2019. *Att skriva barn och ungdomslitteratur*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 978-91-44-12808-5, Caps 1-10, 14-16. 209 pages.

Hellsing, Lennart. 1999. *Tankar om barnlitteraturen*. [ New ed] Stockholm: Rabén & Sjögren. ISBN 91-29-64632-4. 152 pages.

Kåreland, Lena. 2021. *Skönlitteratur för barn och unga: historik, genrer, termer, analyser*. Studentlitteratur. ISBN 9789144140117 Chaps 1 and 3. 64 pages.

Mårtens, Ylva. 2016. *Vad säger barnen*. Stockholm: Atlas. ISBN 9789173895170 368 pages.

Articles in accordance with the teacher's instructions. Ca 200 pages. Fiction chosen in consultation with the teacher. Ca 500 pages.

### **Module 2: Project discussions, 7,5 credits**

Ehriander, Helene (ed). 2019. *Att skriva barn och ungdomslitteratur*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 978-91-44-12808-5, Chaps 1-10, 14-16. 209 pages.

The students' own children's novel drafts. Ca 1000 pages.