



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

1LI114 Litteratur och existentiella frågor, 15 högskolepoäng

Literature and existential questions, 15 credits

Main field of study

Comparative Literature

Subject Group

Comparative Literature

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-12-07

Revised 2014-05-07 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2014

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

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

- account for and apply terminology within comparative literature and the concepts that are used when studying literature in its relation to existential problems,
- critically analyse texts and use the Swedish language correctly.

After completing module 1, Existential questions in fiction, the student should be able to:

- account for how existential questions are expressed in fiction and discuss, analyse and interpret fictional texts,
- account for parts of Swedish and general literary history, and demonstrate fundamental knowledge of genres.

After completing module 2, Philosophy and ethics in fiction, the student should be able to:

- account for how existential, philosophical and ethical questions are expressed in fiction, with special focus on literature after 1945,
- independently analyse and discuss a chosen literary text from the perspectives covered in the course.

Content

In the course the student thematically studies literature and existential questions and focuses on certain individual works of fiction and relevant non-fictional literature. Participation in seminar discussions is compulsory.

Module 1, Existential questions in fiction, 7.5 credits

The first module discusses basic concepts within comparative literature, such as epoch and genre, and how universal existential questions have been expressed in old and new literature in different genres.

Module 2, Philosophy and ethics in fiction, 7.5 credits

The second module discusses philosophical and ethical perspectives on literary texts primarily from the post-war period until today.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of lectures, seminars and group exercises. When the course is offered as a distance course, special types of instruction suitable for that form of distribution are used.

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 objectives must be achieved. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the grade of Pass with Distinction must be achieved in both modules. Module 1 is examined through participation in seminar discussions and a take-home examination. Module 2 is examined through participation in seminar discussions and a paper based on a literary text of the student's own choice.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted and compiled into a report, which is made available to students and filed and stored according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Recommended anthologies

Hansson, Gunnar D. & Fyhr, Lars. 2007. *Texter* (TT). Lund: Studentlitteratur. ISBN: 91-44-03248-X

litteraturbanken.se (LB, some of the old Swedish texts are available here).

Svanberg, Birgitta & Witt-Brattström, Ebba. 2000. *Hundra skrivande kvinnor III*. (HSK) Natur & Kultur.

Module 1, Existential questions in fiction (7.5 credits)

Non-fictional literature

Batailles, Georges. 1996. *Litteraturen och det onda*. B. Östlings bokförlag Symposion. 170 p. ISBN 91-7139-051-0

Bergsten, Staffan & Elleström, Lars. 2004. *Litteraturhistoriens grundbegrepp*. Studentlitteratur. 182 p. ISBN 91-44-04255-8

Dahlberg, Leif. 2003. "Franz Kafka framför lagen" in *Tidskrift för litteraturvetenskap*. 2003: 3, pp. 59–81 (available in digital form).

Pennlöw, Malin. 2000. "Döden blev diktens förutsättning. Om myten Harriet Löwenhjelms" in *Tidskrift för litteraturvetenskap*. 2000: 3–4, pp. 91–113 (available in digital form).

Fiction

Augustinus. From *Bekännelser* (TT)
Austen, Emma. *Övertalning*
Axelsson, Sun. *Drömmen om ett liv*
Birgitta. From *Uppenbarelser* (LB)
Boye, Karin. Poems (LB)
Dante. From *Divina Commedia* (TT)
Dickinson, Emily. Poems (TT)
Gray, Thomas. "Elegy written in a country church-yard" (TT)
Höghund, Anna. *Om detta talar man endast med kaniner*
Johansson, Lars (Lucidor). Poems (LB)
Kafka, Franz. *Processen*
Löwenhjelms, Harriet. Poems (LB)
Sapfo. Poems (TT)
Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*
Sofokles. *Antigone* (for example in *Världsdramatik I*)
Söderberg, Hjalmar. From *Historietter*, "Det mörknar över vägen" (LB)
Stagnelius, Erik Johan. "Necken", "Till natten", "Till Förruttnelsen" (LB)

Module 2, Philosophy and ethics in fiction (7.5 credits)

Non-fictional literature

Heidegger, Martin. 1996. *Brev om humanismen*. Thales. 75 p. ISBN 91-87172-47-X

Lenemark, Christian. 2007. "Författaren online. Bloggen som performativ plattform för självframställning" in *Tidskrift för litteraturvetenskap*. 2007: 4, pp. 51–61 (available in digital form).

Nussbaum, Martha. 1990 (or other edition). *Love's Knowledge. Essays on Philosophy and Literature*. Oxford University Press. Ca 150 p. in selection.

Olsson, Ulf. 1986. "Arttecken. Om sagan i Birgitta Trotzigs författarskap". In: *BLM*, 1986:1. 8 p.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. 2002 (or other edition). *Existentialismen är en humanism*. Bonnier. 78 p.

Fiction

Ashbery, John. Poems (www.poets.org)
Camus, Albert. *Främlingen*
Dostojevskij, Fjodor. *Brott och straff*
Ekman, Kerstin. *Grand final i skojarbranschen*
Hesse, Hermann. *Stäppvargen*
Hemingway, Ernest. "En kort stund av lycka för Francis Macomber"
Gidlund, Kristian. *I kroppen min*
Lagerkvist, Pär. "Himlens hemlighet"
Mansfield, Katherine. "Gardenparty"
Sachs, Nelly. Poems (HSK)
Södergran, Edith. Poems (LB)
Szyborska, Wislawa. Poems (HSK)
Trotzig, Birgitta. *De utsatta*
Voltaire. *Candide*

In addition, a novel of the student's own choice.