



Course syllabus

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Film and Literature

1LI146 Barn och skräckfantastik, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Children and fantastic horror, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Comparative Literature

Subject Group

Comparative Literature

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved 2012-12-05

Revised 2015-02-17 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2015

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

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

- give examples of children's roles in fantastic horror and children's meetings with fantastic horror,
- account for various theoretical perspectives in the debate on children's relation to fantastic horror, and demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate these perspectives.

Content

The course discusses children's roles in and relation to fantastic horror. The course focuses primarily on fiction from the 20th and 21st centuries, but also discusses earlier influences. The course is structured thematically and covers the following areas;

- Children's meetings with fantastic horror
- Children's roles in fantastic horror
- Children, fantastic horror and influence

Critical debate and discussions are emphasised in the course. The students read research within the area presenting different perspectives, and discuss these with the other course participants.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of online assignments and discussions. The teacher presents the themes of the course in short introductory lectures, and announces required reading and questions for reflection which the students work with individually and discuss in groups.

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. The course is examined through three papers related to the three themes of the course. On the basis of the course literature, compulsory articles and questions studied within each theme, the student writes a short critically reflecting paper.

The three papers are submitted in one document at the end of the course. The student must submit all papers together to be assessed and examined by the teacher responsible for the course. In all three papers the students must demonstrate that they have understood the course literature and other course material (articles), and demonstrate the ability to use this material in an analytical and reflecting manner.

For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

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

Non-fictional literature

Alegre, Sara Martín. "Nightmares of the Childhood. The Child and the Monster in Four Novels by Stephen King". In *Atlantis*, Vol. 23. No. 1. 2001. pp. 105–144. Also available in iTunes.

Jones, Gerard. 2002. *Killing Monsters: Why Children Need Fantasy, Super Heroes, and Make-Believe Violence*, Basic Books. 261 p. ISBN 0465036953

The Gothic in Children's Literature, Haunting the Borders. 2008. Ed. Jackson, Anna & McGillis, Roderick. London. 254 p. (available as an e-book through the university library)

Westfahl, Gary. 1999. *Nursery Realms: Children in the Worlds of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror*, University of Georgia Press. 223 p. ISBN 0820320951

Most of the academic texts in the course consist of scientific articles within the area. The titles of the articles are announced when the course starts and comprise ca 500 pages.

Fiction

Andersen, H C. 1845. "De röda skorna", in any collection of the author's stories.

Dahl, Roald. 1964. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Any edition.

Gaiman, Neil. 2009. *The Graveyard Book*. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC.

Higson, Charlie. 2010. *The Enemy*. Puffin Books.

Irving, Washington. 1819. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

King, Stephen. 1983. *Pet Sematary*. Any edition.

Lindqvist, John Ajvide. 2004. *Låt den rätte komma in*. Ordfront Förlag.

Rice, Anne. 1976. *Interview with the Vampire*. Any edition.

Saul, John. 1999. *Comes the Blind Fury*. Dell Publishing Company.

Tolkien, JRR. 1937. *The Hobbit: or There and Back Again*. Any edition.

Some of the books are also available in Swedish translations.

Additional fiction, ca 250 p.

Films

Barnhemmet Bayona, Antonio Juan, 2007.

Children of the Corn. Kiersch, Fritz, 2004.

Coraline. Selick, Henry, 2009.

Pirates of Caribbean. The Curse of the Black Pearl, Verbinski, Gore, 2003.

Studio S. Videovåldsdebatten, SVT, 1980.

Supernatural, The CW. Selected episodes.

The Exorcist, Friedkin, William, 1973.

The Omen, Donner, Richard, 1976.

The Nightmare before Christmas, Selick, Henry, 1993.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Newell, Mike, 2005.

The Sixth Sense, Shyamalan, Night, M, 1999.

The Ring, Verbinski, Gore, 2002.

The Walking Dead. AMC. Selected episodes.

Village of the Damned, Carpenter, John, 1995

Additional films and episodes of TV series might be added.