



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

1LI147 Studier av makt i George R.R. Martins Game of Thrones, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Analysing power structures in George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Comparative Literature

Subject Group

Comparative Literature

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2018-01-15

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2018

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

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

- discuss and problematise relevant research on fantasy as a genre,
- discuss and problematise a few different theories of power,
- critically analyse the portrayal of power and power structures in Martin's fictive universe, on the basis of the critical concept of intersectionality.

Content

George R.R. Martin's book series *A Song of Ice and Fire* and the TV series *Game of Thrones* have become very popular in the past few years. Today Martin's story of power and power struggles on the continents of Westeros and Essos has become one of the most widely discussed phenomena in popular culture. This course discusses the portrayal of power and power structures in Martin's fictive universe, focusing particularly on different forms of oppression and discrimination. This is problematised on the basis of the critical concept of intersectionality and relevant theories of power from literary studies and the social sciences. In conjunction to studies of power structures in Martin's fictive universe, the course also discusses critical approaches presented in the media debate on controversial elements in the TV series *Game of Thrones*.

Type of Instruction

The teaching is distance-based and carried out through an online learning platform.

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 must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. The course is examined continuously through written assignments and written contributions to discussions.

For students who do not pass their 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. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Non-fictional literature

Alkestrand, Malin. 2016. *Magiska möjligheter: Harry Potter, Artemis Fowl och Cirkeln i skolans värdegrundsarbete*. Makadam Förlag. ISBN 9789170612251. pp. 83–97 (provided by the department). 14 p.

Ellis, Katie. 2014. "Cripples, Bastards and Broken Things: Disability in Game of Thrones". *M/C Journal. A Journal of Media and Culture* 17: 5. (available online).

Frankel, V. Estelle. 2014. *Women in Game of Thrones: Power, Conformity and Resistance*. McFarland & Company, Inc Publishers. 206 p. ISBN 9781476615547. (available as an e-book).

Gjelsvik, Anne & Schubart, Rikke (eds). 2016. *Women of Ice and Fire. Gender, Game of Thrones, and Multiple Media Engagements*. Bloomsbury. (in selection, ca 170 p.) ISBN: 9781501302909.

Hardy, Mat. 2015. "Game of Tropes: The Orientalist Tradition in the Works of G. R. R. Martin". *International Journal of Arts and Sciences* 08: 409–420. ISSN 19446934. (available online). 11 p.

Irvin, William (ed). 2012. *Game of Thrones and Philosophy: Logic Cuts Deeper Than Sword*. Wiley. 320 p. ISBN 9781118161999. (in selection, ca 80 p). (available as an e-book).

Lycke, Nina. 2005. "Nya perspektiv på intersektionalitet. Problem och möjligheter". *Kvinnovetenskaplig tidskrift* 2–3: 7–17. ISSN: 03488365. (available online). 10 p.

Molina, Irene. 2016. "Intersektionalitet", in Anna Lundberg, Ann Werner (eds), *En introduktion till genusvetenskapliga begrepp* 5: 3338. Nationella sekretariatet för genusforskning. ISBN 9789198080254. (available online). 5 p.

Additional relevant articles provided by the department, (150–200 p).

Fiction

Any edition:

Martin, R. R. George. *A Game of Thrones*. (735 p.)

Martin, R. R. George. *A Clash of Kings*. (752 p.)

Selected episodes of the TV series *Game of Thrones*.

