



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Language and Literature

1LI203 Våld i film och litteratur, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Violence in Film and Literature, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Film Studies, Comparative Literature

Subject Group

Comparative Literature

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Organisational Committee 2009-06-16

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2010

Prerequisites

Swedish B/Swedish 2B.

Expected learning outcomes

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

- analyze cinematic and literary representations of violence and the function of the depiction of violence in the narrative,
- problemize the representation of violence in film and literature based on aesthetical and societal perspectives,
- discuss medial differences and similarities between film and literature based on questions of physicality and effect.

Content

The course covers the significance of physical violence in film and modern literature based on aesthetical and societal perspectives. A central idea is that violence in a story may have several meanings. Violence can be visual aestheticization or a representation of physical pain beyond linguistic understanding. It can also reflect political traumas and manifest society's view of moral boundaries, power relations, war, sexuality and political oppression. The portrayal of violence in various mediums also raises central aesthetic questions about representation and medial effect. For example, what is behind the idea that film violence affects us more, physically and mentally, than does violence in literature? The course approaches this theme through discussions of film and literature in different genres, from different countries and epochs that share the fact that the

depiction of violence makes up a central part of the portrayal.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of lectures, exercises and mandatory seminars. When the course is offered on-campus, teaching occurs to a large extent in actual classroom meetings. When the course is offered as a distance course, teaching occurs via a web-based learning management system.

Examination

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

Examination forms are written assignments, comments on work by other students and participation in discussions.

Students at Linnaeus University are entitled to have the course grade translated into the 7-step ECTS scale. A request to have the grades translated must be made to the teacher at the start of the course.

For students who fail to earn a Pass grade at the first examination opportunity, a maximum of four additional examination opportunities will be provided.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a written course evaluation is performed and compiled into a report. The evaluation report is available to students and is filed and stored according to departmental regulations.

Credit Overlap

The course is equivalent to Module 3 of 1FV20E *Film Studies, Continuation course*.

The course may also be found under course code 1FV203.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

Armstrong, Nancy & Leonard Tennenhouse (eds.). 1989. *The violence of representation : literature and the history of violence*. London: Routledge.
200 pages

Durand, AlainPhilippe & Naomi Mandel (eds.). 2006. *Novels of the contemporary extreme*.
New York/London: Continuum (e-book).
190 pages

Gjelsvik, Anne. 2007. *Vondt og vakkert. Vold i audiovisuelle medier*.
Höyskoleforlaget, Oslo.
50 pages

Leitch, Thomas. 2007. "Literature vs. Literacy" in *Film Adaptation and its Discontents. From Gone with the Wind to The Passion of Christ*. The Johns Hopkins UP: Baltimore.
20 pages

Prince, Stephen (ed). 2000. *Screening violence*. Continuum International Publishing Group.
ca 150 pages (selected pages)

Slocum, David J. (ed.) 2001. *Violence and American Cinema*. London: Routledge.
ca 200 pages (selected pages)

Additional material

Films:

American Psycho (Mary Harron, 2000)

Män som hatar kvinnor (Niels Arden Oplev, 2009)

In addition to these films, the course's film material includes a list with film clips available on the Internet for course students.

Fiction:

Ellis, Brett Easton, *American Psycho*, 1991.

Larsson, Stieg, *Män som hatar kvinnor*, 2005.

In addition to these novels, the course includes a compendium with shorter works of fiction.