



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Languages

4EN002 Litteratur och migration, 15 högskolepoäng

Literature and migration, 15 credits

Main field of study

English

Colonial and postcolonial studies

Comparative Literature

Subject

English

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2019-05-22.

Revised 2025-11-28. Changes in list of required reading.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2026.

Prerequisites

1–90 credits in English or Comparative Literature including an independent project of at least 15 credits or the equivalent,

or,

1-90 credits including an independent project of at least 15 credits in another subject within the Humanities or Social Sciences or the equivalent, as well as English course 6.

Objectives

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

- analyse migration literature from the second half of the 20th century until today from literary, cultural and historical perspectives,
- account for cultural and literary theories on migration, refuge, exile and diaspora,
- relate to current research in the field of literature and migration,
- write academic texts in the subject, using English that excels in terms of grammar as well as style.

Module 1: Postcolonial Migration Literature, 7.5 credits

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

- analyse literary descriptions of postcolonial migration from the mid-20th century onwards,
- account for the establishment and development of migration literature as a literary genre,
- apply relevant cultural and literary theories in analyses of migration literature.

Module 2: Contemporary Migration Narratives, 7.5 credits

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

- analyse literary descriptions of global migration from the late 20th century and today,
- account for the development of migration literature in contemporary literature,
- apply relevant cultural and literary theories in analyses of migration literature.

Content

This course discusses migration literature in global English-language fiction from the 20th and 21st centuries. Themes such as migration, refuge, exile and diaspora are analysed within a global context. The students get the opportunity to develop their new knowledge by writing a number of academic texts in the subject.

The course includes the following modules:

Module 1: Postcolonial Migration Literature, 7.5 credits

This module discusses the establishment and development of migration literature after the mid-20th century. The students read a number of representative literary texts. The module also presents basic theoretical concepts relevant in analyses of literary descriptions of postcolonial migration.

Module 2: Contemporary Migration Narratives, 7.5 credits

This module focuses on contemporary migration literature. The students read and analyse a number of literary texts. Various contemporary migration narratives are theorised and contextualised from cultural and literary perspectives.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and seminars through an online learning platform. For specific technical requirements, see the course website.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

The course is examined through written assignments and oral seminar presentations.

The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document.

Language proficiency is assessed in all assignments.

In order to receive the grade of A or B, the student must have received the grade of A or B in both modules. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted exam or allow the student to conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Reexamination takes the form of a written assignment or another assignment decided by the examiner.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation 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: Postcolonial migration literature, 7.5 credits

Emecheta, Buchi. 1983 [1974]. *Second-Class Citizen*. George Brazillier. ISBN: 9780435909918. 174 p.

Okada, John. 2013 [1957]. *No-No Boy*. University of Washington Press. ISBN: 9780295994048. 264 p.

Rivera, Tomás. 2015 [1971]. *...and the Earth Did Not Devour Him*. Arte Publico Press. 145 p.

Salkey, Andrew. 2009 [1960]. *Escape to an Autumn Pavement*. Peepal Tree Press. ISBN: 9781845230982. 220 p.

Material provided by the department, 200 p.

Module 2: Contemporary Migration Narratives, 7.5 credits

Castillo, Ana. 2007. *The Guardians*. Random House. SBN: 9780812975710. 222 p.

Chikwava, Brian. 2010. *Harare North*. Vintage. ISBN: 9780099526759. 240 s.

Ghosh, Amitav. 2005. *The Hungry Tide*. Harpercollins. ISBN: 9780007141784. 416 s.

Material provided by the department, 200 p.

Additional study material for modules 1 and 2

Ahmad, Dora (ed.), *The Penguin Book of Migration Literature*. New York: Penguin, 2019.

Ahmed, Sara. *Strange Encounters: Embodied Others in Post-Coloniality*, New York and London: Routledge, 2000.

Ahuja, Neel. *Planetary Specters: Race, Migration, and Climate Change in the Twenty-first Century*. Chapel Hill: North Carolina UP, 2021.

Boym, Svetlana. *The Future of Nostalgia*. New York: Basic Books, 2001.

Dimock, Wai Chee (ed.), *American Literature in the World*. New York: Columbia UP, 2017.

Grewal, Inderpal. *Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms*. Durham: Duke UP, 2005.

Hall, Stuart. *Essential essays Volume 2: Identity and diaspora*. Ed. David Morley. Durham: Duke University Press, 2019.

Moraga, Cherríe and Anzaldúa, Gloria (eds.). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Albany: SUNY Press, (2021) [1981].

Procter, James (ed.). *Writing Black Britain: 1948-1998: an interdisciplinary anthology*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2000.

Stonebridge, Lyndsey. *Placeless People: Writing, Rights and Refugees*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018.

Walkowitz, Rebecca, ed. *Immigrant Fictions*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.