



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Languages

4EN013 Öar i litteraturen, 15 högskolepoäng
Islands in Literature, 15 credits

Main field of study
English, Comparative Literature

Subject Group
English

Level of classification
Second Level

Progression
A1N

Date of Ratification
Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2019-05-22
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2020

Prerequisites
1-90 credits in English including an independent project of 15 credits,
or
1-90 credits in Comparative literature including an independent project of 15 credits and
English 6/English B,
or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- account for the main trends in how islands have been portrayed as a symbol and theme in Western literature from Antiquity until today,
- independently and critically apply literary theories and methods focusing on postcolonial and ecocritical perspectives,
- analyse literary texts in the basis of contemporary theories and structure their analysis in the form of a written argumentation,
- formulate their own assignments using grammatically correct and stylistically appropriate English.

Content

This course discusses how islands have been portrayed as symbols and themes in Western literature, from Antiquity until today. This is discussed in relation to contemporary theories, especially postcolonial and ecocritical perspectives, and in relation to a number of literary texts. In connection to the theoretical perspective, a number of cultural historical aspects relevant to the literary texts are also discussed.

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 Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction the student must also demonstrate a high degree of independence in their application of theories and methods, as well as good ability to conduct independent analyses of the literary texts included.

The course includes two examining parts:

Part 1, Essay, is examined through a short essay focusing on literary analysis in relation to the theoretical course material.

Part 2, Book proposal, is examined through a book proposal in which the student independently applies discussions from the theoretical course material and discusses islands as a literary theme. The students also comment on each other's drafts and revise their own drafts to a final version on the basis of comments from the teacher.

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction in both parts.

For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examinations at the first and second levels at Linnaeus 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. 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

Ballard, J G. 2008. *Concrete Island*. London: HarperCollins. 208 p. ISBN: 9780007287048.

Defoe, Daniel. 2004. *Robinson Crusoe*. ed. John J Richetti. London: Penguin. 288 p. ISBN: 978-0141439822

Gillis, John R. 2009. *Islands of the Mind: How the Human Imagination Created the Atlantic World*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 217 p. ISBN: 978-0230620865

Kinane, Ian. 2016. *Theorising Literary Islands: The Island Trope in Contemporary Robinsonade Narratives*. Rowman Littlefield International. 258 p. ISBN: 9781783488063

More, Thomas. 2009. Utopia. In: *Three Early Modern Utopias*. ed. Susan Bruce. London: Penguin. 147 p. ISBN: 978-0199537990

Plato. 2008. *Timaeus and Critias*. London: Penguin. 240 p. ISBN: 9780192807359

Schalansky, Judith. 2010. *Pocket Atlas of Remote Islands: Fifty Islands I Have Never Set Foot on and Never Will*. London: Penguin. 240 p. ISBN: 9780143126676.

Shakespeare, William. 2008. *The Tempest*. ed. Stephen Orgel. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 256 p. ISBN: 978-199535903

Tiffin, Helen & Graham Huggan. 2009. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*. London: Routledge. 256 p. ISBN: 978-0415344586

Wells, Herbert George. 2005. *The Island of Dr Moreau*. London: Penguin. 176 p. ISBN: 978-0141441023