



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Languages

4EN017 Nordisk nostalgi, 15 högskolepoäng

Nordic Nostalgia, 15 credits

Main field of study

English

History

Comparative Literature

Subject

English

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2019-11-04.

Revised 2026-07-06. Changes in list of required reading.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

Prerequisites

Specific entry requirements: 90 credits in a subject in the humanities including an independent project of 15 credits.

Objectives

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

- account for the terminology, definition and history of the concept of nostalgia,
- analyse various artistic manifestations and media from a nostalgic perspective,

- describe selected parts of Nordic literary, music and film history from a nostalgic perspective,
- discuss nostalgia in the Nordics from political and contextual perspectives.
- write extensive academic texts.

Module 1. Nostalgia and the Nordics, 7.5 credits

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

- account for the terminology, definition and history of the concept of nostalgia,
- analyse various artistic manifestations and media from a nostalgic perspective,
- discuss the concepts of nationalism, modernity, modernism and childhood in a nostalgic context.

Module 2. Contemporary Nordic Nostalgia, 7.5 credits

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

- discuss the role of nostalgia in modern Nordic society, concerning politics, immigration, the environment and commercialism,
- account for aesthetic, nostalgic manifestations in a selection of contemporary art and culture in the Nordics,
- analyse various artistic manifestations and media from a nostalgic perspective.

Content

In this course the students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge in the new field of nostalgia, focusing on Nordic music, film and literary history during the 20th and 21st centuries. A selection of aesthetic manifestations in the Nordics are analysed from stylistic as well as contextual, nostalgic perspectives. The students develop knowledge of the role of nostalgia in Nordic society and art.

The course includes the following modules:

Module 1 Nostalgia and the Nordics, 7.5 credits

This module defines nostalgia from historical, cultural, political and aesthetic perspectives. It discusses the Nordics as a political, historical and geographical region. Through close readings and contextualisations of a number of Nordic manifestations from the first half of the 20th century, the students discuss the role of nostalgia and nationalism in the development of modern Nordic society and artistic manifestations of this.

Module 2. Contemporary Nordic Nostalgia, 7.5 credits

This module explores contemporary nostalgic aesthetic manifestations in Nordic Noir, the climate, political extremism, terrorism, diaspora, migration and integration. A large part of the module includes discussions of nostalgia as a form of expression as well as a

method for analysis.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and seminars. Some parts of the teaching include ICT.

Examination

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

In order to receive the grade of C–E, the student must achieve the intended learning outcomes. Grading criteria for the grades of A–B will be specified when the course starts.

Both modules are examined through written assignments.

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.

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

Required reading is listed for each module below.

Module 1 Nostalgia and the Nordics, 7.5 credits

Bergman, Ingmar. 1953. *Sommaren med Monika* [Monika: Story of a Bad Girl]. AB Svensk Filmindustri.

Boye, Karin. 1940. *Kalloccain* [Kalloccain]. 194 p. Any edition.

Boym, Svetlana. 2001. *The Future of Nostalgia*. New York: Basic Books. 404 p. Any edition.

Hamsun, Knut. 1917. *Growth of the soil* [Markens Grøde]. 433 p. Any edition.

Jansson, Tove. 2008. "Moomin and the Sea." In *Moomin: The Complete Tove Jansson Comic Strip, volume three*. Ca 28 p. Any edition.

Jansson, Tove. 1972. *The Summer Book* [Sommarboken]. Ca 25 p. Any edition.

Mattsson, Arne. 1951. *Hon dansade en sommar* [One Summer of Happiness]. Svenska AB Nordisk Tonefilm.

Söderberg, Hjalmar. 1905. *Doctor Glas* [Doktor Glas, 1905]. 170 p. Any edition.

Vesaas, Tarjei. 1963. *The Ice Palace* [Is-slottet]. 176 p. Any edition.

Material provided by the department, 200 p.

Module 2 Contemporary Nordic Nostalgia, 7.5 credits

Andersson, Roy. 1970. *En kärlekshistoria* [A Swedish Love Story]. Europafilm.

Boym, Svetlana. 2001. *The Future of Nostalgia*. New York: Basic Books. 404 p. Any edition.

Björn, Henrik. 2015. *Jordskott*. Season 1, Episodes 1–3. SVT.

Farez, Josef. 2005. *Zozo*. Memphis Film Rights5, Zentropa Entertainments5 ApS, Zozo Ltd, Sigmalll Films Ltd.

Hallström, Lasse. 1986. *Alla vi barn i Bullerbyn* [The Children of Noisy Village]. Svensk Filmindustri.

Hussain, Khalid. 2005. *Import-Export* [Import–Eksport]. Filmhuset AS.

Khemiri, Jonas Hassen. 2011. *Montecore: The Silence of the Tiger* [Montecore – en unik tiger].

Kaurismäki, Aki. 1986. *Shadows in Paradise* [Varjoja paratiisissa]. Villealfa Filmproductions.

Tran, Quynh. 2024. *Shade and Breeze*. [Skugga och svalka]. ISBN: 9781915267283

Material provided by the department, 400 p.