



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Languages

4EN470 Krisberättelser: litterära och lingvistiska utforskningar, 15 högskolepoäng

Conveying Crises: Literary and Linguistic Explorations, 15 credits

Main field of study

English

Comparative Literature

Subject

English

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-12-04.

Revised 2026-06-29. Changes in list of required reading.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

Prerequisites

Specific entry requirements: 90 credits in English or Comparative Literature including an independent project of at least 15 credits

Or:

90 credits including an independent project of at least 15 credits in another subject in the humanities or social sciences

Or:

the equivalent

You also need:

English B

Or:
English 6
Or:
English level 2
Or:
the equivalent

Objectives

Module 1. Language and ideology in conveying crises, 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for fundamental concepts in critical discourse studies,
- evaluate how ideology can manifest itself in texts and other primary data,
- critically discuss word choice and language patterns in texts,
- apply discourse analytical tools to different kinds of primary data.

Module 2. Literary perspectives on societal challenges, 7.5 credits

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- describe and compare ecocritical, narratological and genre theoretical tools with regard to their usefulness in analyzing crisis narratives,
- identify key representational strategies in fictional and non-fictional primary data on different kinds of social crises,
- critically relate to and make use of current literary research on social crises.

Content

Module 1. Language and ideology in conveying crises, 7.5 credits

The module deals with the ideological dimension of language. Students analyze how language is used to communicate crises in media, public contexts and artistic production. Different discourse analytical methods are applied in concrete exercises and students reflect on the usefulness of these methods in illuminating the communication goals of primary data. Particular focus is placed on how understanding of sustainability issues is affected by linguistic framing.

Module 2. Literary perspectives on societal challenges, 7.5 credits

The module delves into contemporary fiction and other cultural production that represents social crises. The focus is on literature and media that examine society from a sustainability perspective. Modern genre theory, narratology and ecocriticism are applied in practical analyses, and the primary data is related to current debates. Students evaluate to what extent these tools allow for a deeper understanding of how crisis narratives may affect audiences.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars and group work.

Examination

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

Both modules are examined via an oral presentation (2.5 credits) and a written assignment at the end of the module (5 credits).

Resit examination is offered in accordance with Linnaeus University's Local regulations for courses and examination at the first- and second-cycle levels. In the event that a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation should be conducted during the course or in connection with its conclusion. The results and analysis of the completed course evaluation should be promptly communicated to students who have completed the course. Students participating in the next course instance should be informed of the results of the previous course evaluation and any improvements that have been made, no later than at the start of the course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Module 1. Language and ideology in conveying crises, 7.5 credits

Flowerdew, John & Richardson, John E. (eds.). 2017. *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Discourse Studies*. London: Taylor & Francis Group. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 200 pages.

Hart, Christopher (ed.). 2020. *Researching Discourse: A Student Guide*. Routledge. Available as e-text through the University Library. 216 pages.

Miller, Riel (ed.). 2018. *Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century*. Taylor & Francis Group. Available online (Open Access), <https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/33057>. Selection, ca 200 pages.

Stibbe, Arran (ed.). 2009. *The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: Skills for a Changing World*. Totnes: UIT Cambridge Ltd. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 150 pages.

Additional material distributed via the course platform, ca 300 pages.

Module 2. Literary perspectives on societal challenges, 7.5 credits

Auken, Sune & Sunesen, Christel (eds.). 2021. *Genre in the Climate Debate*. De Gruyter Open Poland. Available online (Open Access), <https://doi.org/10.1515/9788395720499>. 209 pages.

Burns, Gary (ed.). 2016. *A Companion to Popular Culture*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 100 pages.

Fludernik, Monika & Ryan, Marie-Laure (eds.). 2020. *Narrative Factuality: A Handbook*. Berlin: De Gruyter. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 200 pages.

Goodbody, Axel & Johns-Putra, Adeline (eds.). 2018. *Cli-Fi: A Companion*. Oxford: Peter Lang. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 100 pages.

Kang, Han. Any edition. *The Vegetarian*. Transl. Deborah Smith. Ca 208 pages.

Löschnigg, Maria & Braunecker, Melanie (eds.). 2019. *Green Matters: Ecocultural Functions of Literature*. Piraí: BRILL. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 100 pages.

Slovic, Scott, Rangarajan, Swarnalatha & Sarveswaran, Vidya (eds.). 2019. *Routledge*

Handbook of Ecocriticism and Environmental Communication. Milton: Taylor &\ Francis Group. Available as e-text through the University Library. Selection, ca 200 pages.

Additional material distributed via the course platform, ca 300 pages.