



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Languages

4EN707 Betydelse i språk och litteratur, 15 högskolepoäng
Meaning in language and literature, 15 credits

Main field of study

English

Subject Group

English

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2012-12-12

Revised 2013-06-21 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2013

Prerequisites

In addition to the general entry requirements, successful completion of the following upper-secondary course:

English A

English 1-90 credits, including a degree project of at least 15 credits

Objectives

Following completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- explain the most important issues as well as the most influential theories regarding studies of meaning within language and literature,
- discuss and problematize different ways of looking at meaning within language and literature,
- independently search for, identify and critically review relevant literature,
- plan and complete a minor academic project in language and literature within the framework of a specific theory of meaning,
- in an analytical and systematic manner, present the student's own texts and critically review the work of others.

Content

In the course, outlooks on meaning will be presented and discussed from the perspective of both language and literature. Similarities and differences between linguistic and literary outlooks will be brought up and discussed. The course includes the following modules:

Module 1 Theoretical survey 10 credits

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In Module 1, the most influential theories of meaning within language and literature will be presented and problematized separately, as well as in comparison with each other. The course deals with general questions such as how one defines meaning, what kinds of meaning can be discerned, as well as how meaning is presumed to be represented and manifested.

Examination and grading of the module is based on written assignments.

Module 2 Specialisation 5 credits

In Module 2, students will further their knowledge in a specific linguistic or literary theory. The student will complete a minor research assignment that should include the collection, compilation, analysis and reporting of some kind of empirical material. The work should focus on one or more of the aspects addressed within the chosen theory. During the module, the student must also analytically and systematically present their own research assignment as well as comment on the work of others.

Examination and grading of the module is based on the written reporting of the research assignment in the form of a paper.

Type of Instruction

Forms of instruction include ICT-based lectures and individual guidance. For specific technical requirements for each course offering, consult the course's home page.

Examination

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

For the grade of Pass, the expected study results should have been achieved. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction can be found in the study guidance material. Examination and grading of the course is based on written assignments, where content, language proficiency and the ability to formulate academic texts are all equally important. Students who do not turn in their examination assignments in time will receive the grade of Fail. For students who fail to earn a Pass grade at the ordinary examination opportunity, a maximum of four additional examination opportunities will be provided.

Course Evaluation

Teaching is continually evaluated throughout the term.

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

Upon request, students who have successfully passed all course requirements may receive a course certificate.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

List of references Module 1 - Theoretical survey 10 hec

Literature for Module 1 - Theoretical survey 10 credits

Burke, S. (ed.) (1995) *Authorship: From Plato to the Postmodern: A Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. (349 pages)

Cruse, A. (2010) *Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (512 pages)

Saeed, J. I. (2009) *Semantics. 3rd edition*. Malden, Mass: WileyBlackwell. (480 pages)

Tompkins, Jane P. Ed. (1980) *Reader-Response Criticism: From Formalism to Post-Structuralism*. Baltimore: John Hopkins UP. (304 pages)

Material provided by the department, ca. 100 pages.

List of references Module 2 - Specialisation 5 hec

Literature selected in consultation with the course teacher, ca. 500 pages.

Wray, A. & Bloomer, A. (2006) *Projects in linguistics: a practical guide to researching language*. London: Hodder Arnold. 290 pages.

Owens, W. R. & Da Sousa Correa, D. (2009) *Handbook to literary research*. London: Taylor & Francis. 208 pages.