



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Language and Literature

4LI005 Vampyrer och makt. Konstruktionen av vampyren i fiktion och samhälle, 15 högskolepoäng

Vampires and Power. Constructing vampires in fiction and society, 15 credits

Main field of study

Comparative Literature

Subject Group

Comparative Literature

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Board of the School of Language and Literature 2010-12-08

Revised 2012-02-01

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2012

Prerequisites

English A, Swedish B/Swedish 2B. Additional requirements are 1-90 credits in comparative literature, including an independent project of at least 15 credits.

Objectives

After completing the course, students should be able to

- explain and describe the improvisational power function of the vampire in folklore, mythology and vampire fiction
- critically analyze the vampire in folklore, mythology and vampire fiction based on social constructionist perspectives.

Content

The course deals with the figure of the vampire in folklore, mythology and other fiction. The figure of the vampire is studied in relation to the cultural and societal contexts in which it is created. Students will pursue advanced studies in the theories and methods that are used within the academic perspective of social constructivism. The figure of the vampire will also be analyzed based on different academic perspectives of power. The course also provides students the opportunity to pursue further studies within a chosen subject included in the scope of the course.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is in the form of filmed and written lectures by teachers having special expertise within the field. These will be complemented with interviews with people who work with vampire fiction in some manner.

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 expected learning outcomes must be achieved. For students who fail to earn a Pass grade at the first examination opportunity, a maximum of four additional examination opportunities will be provided. Examination and grading is based on an independent project, which should be completed as a closer study of the figure of the vampire in folklore, mythology or fiction, based on an academic perspective of power. The project should result in an essay. The essay should clearly reflect that the student has understood the required readings and teaching, and has the ability to use this new knowledge in an analytical and thoughtful manner.

Course Evaluation

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

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Non-fiction

Bronfen, Elisabeth. 1992. *Over Her Dead Body. Death, femininity and the aesthetic*. Manchester University Press. 460 pages. (Selected pages)

David, Carol Margaret. 1997. *Bram Stokers Dracula. Sucking Through the Century, 1897–1997*. Dundurn Press. 432 pages. (Selected pages)

Foucault, Michel. 2002. *Sexualitetens historia 1. Viljan att veta*. Bokförlaget Daidalos. 160 pages.

Gelder, Ken. 2000. *The Horror Reader*. Routledge. 432 pages. (Selected pages)

Gilbert, Sandra och Gubar, Susan. 2000. (Second Edition). *The Madwoman in the Attic. The woman writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*. Yale University Press. 719 pages. (Selected pages)

Höglund, Anna. 2009. *Vampyrer. En kulturkritisk studie av den västerländska vampyrberättelsen från 1700-talet till 2000-talet*. 367 pages.

McClelland, Bruce A. 2006. *Slayers and Their Vampires. A Cultural History of Killing the Dead*. The University of Michigan Press. 260 pages. (Selected pages)

Wright, Dudley. (1914) 2006. *The Book of Vampires*. Dover Publications. Inc. 121 pages.

För ämnet relevanta och aktuella artiklar tillkommer. Detsamma gäller de facklitterära texter som den studerande väljer ur listan för referenslitteratur i överenskommelse med ansvarig lärare. Ca 500 pages.

Fiction

Del Toro, Guillermo. 2008. *The Strain. Harper Collins*. 585 s. Alternativt Del Toro, Guillermo, *Släktet*. Svensk översättning av Anders Bellis. Bra Böcker. 466 pages.

Lindqvist, Ajvide, John. (2004) 2008, *Låt den rätte komma in*. Ordfront Förlag AB. 416 pages.

Romkey, Michael. 1996. *I, Vampire*. Fawcett. 435 s. Alternativt Romkey, Michael. *Jag, en vampyr*. Dansk översättning Bitten Posselt Langhede. Rosenkilde. 480 pages.

Stoker, Bram, (1897) 2008. *Dracula*. Svensk översättning Maila Hämäläinen. h:ström - Text & Kultur. 550 pages. Alternativt Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. In an original English version of the student's choice.

Skal, David J. (red) 2006. *Vampires. Encounters with the Undead*. Urval ca 150-200 pages.

Additional fiction texts, TV-series and films will be added. Ca 1000 pages or the equivalent of TV-series and films.