



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Film 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 2010-12-08

Revised 2016-02-18 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

### **Prerequisites**

English A, Swedish B/Swedish 2B. , and 1–90 credits in Comparative Literature, including an independent project of at least 15 credits.

## Objectives

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

- account for the improvisational power function of vampires in folklore, myths and vampire fiction,
- critically analyse vampires in folklore, myths and vampire fiction,
- account for and apply social constructionist perspectives.

### **Module 1. Introduction to studies of vampires and power**

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

- account for social constructionist perspectives and theoretical perspectives of power,
- discuss and problematise the concept and phenomenon of power and the improvisational power function of vampires in folklore, myths and fiction,
- relate vampires to the cultural and societal contexts in which they have been created.

### **Module 2. In-depth studies of vampires and power, including independent**

## analyses

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

- independently analyse vampire fiction on the basis of various theoretical perspectives of power,
- independently apply the power theories discussed in the course on vampire fiction from various time periods and places,
- independently analyse vampires in relation to the cultural and societal contexts in which they have been created.

## Content

This course introduces the social constructionist perspective and particularly influential power perspectives within it. The power perspectives are studied and illustrated in analyses of vampires in folklore, myths and other fiction. Vampires are studied in relation to the cultural and societal contexts in which they have been created. The course also includes in-depth studies of relevant topics of the students' own choice.

### ***Module 1 Introduction to studies of vampires and power 7.5 credits***

This module introduces the social constructionist perspective and a number of influential power theorists and power perspectives. The concept of improvisational power is studied and illustrated in analyses of vampires in folklore, myths and fiction. The students develop knowledge of the early history of vampire fiction and of how vampires can be studied in relation to the cultural and societal contexts in which they have been created. The students discuss and problematise the concept and phenomenon of power and the improvisational power function of vampires in folklore, myths and fiction.

### ***Module 2 In-depth studies of vampires and power, including independ 7.5 credits***

In this module the students develop the knowledge acquired in module 1. Additional influential power theorists and power perspectives are introduced. The concept of improvisational power is illustrated and problematised with examples from vampire fiction. The students develop knowledge of the modern history of vampire fiction and contemporary vampire fiction, and study vampires in relation to cultural and societal contexts of the different time periods. In independent projects the students apply the power theories discussed in the course in analyses of vampire fiction from various time periods and places.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of recorded and written lectures and presentations, and interviews with people working with vampire fiction.

## 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 demonstrate active participation on the online learning platform and achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts. The modules are examined continuously through written assignments and compulsory contributions to discussions. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction (VG) the student must have received this grade in both modules.

For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

## Course Evaluation

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

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

## **Required Reading**

### **Module 1. Introduction to studies of vampires and power**

#### **Non-fictional literature**

Barber, Paul. 2010. *Vampires, Burial, and Death. Folklore and Reality; with a New Preface*. Yale University Press. Yale. 244 p. ISBN 9780300164817

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. *Kultur och kritik*. Daidalos. Gothenburg. 295 p. (selection) ISBN 91 86320599

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

Gelder, Ken. 1994. *Reading the Vampire*. Routledge. London. 161 p. ISBN 0415 080126

Höglund, Anna. 2009. *Vampyrer. En kulturkritisk studie av den västerländska vampyrberättelsen från 1700-talet till 2000-talet*. 367 p. ISBN 9789176366837

Lindgren, Simon. 2009. *Populärkultur. Teorier, metoder och analyser*. Liber. 232 p. ISBN 9789147089536

Additional articles relevant to the subject. Ca 200 p.

#### **Fiction**

Skal, David J. (ed) 2006. *Vampires. Encounters with the Undead*. Black Dog & Leventhal. Selection. ISBN 1579124755

Stoker, Bram, (1897) 2008. *Dracula*. Swedish translation by Maila Hämäläinen. B:ström Text & Kultur. 550 p. OR Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. Any English edition.

Additional fiction, films and TV series, ca. 300 p. or the equivalent.

### **Module 2: In-depth studies of vampires and power, including independent analyses**

Bronfen, Elisabeth. 1992. *Over Her Dead Body. Death, femininity and the aesthetic*. Manchester University Press. 460 p. (selection) ISBN 0415906601

Featherstone, Mike. 1994. *Kultur, kropp och konsumtion*. Eds. Thomas Johansson & Fredrik Miegel, Brutus Östlings Bokförlag Symposion. Stockholm. 143 p. ISBN 91-7139-202-5

Foucault, Michel. 2002. *Sexualitetens historia 1. Viljan att veta*. Bokförlaget Daidalos. 160 p. (selection)

Gelder, Ken. 1994. *Reading the Vampire*. Routledge. London. 161 p. (selection) ISBN 0-415-08012-6

Gilbert, Sandra & Gubar, Susan. 2000. (Second Edition). *The Madwoman in the Attic. The woman writer and the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination*. Yale University Press. 719 p. (selection) ISBN 0-300-08458-7

Höglund, Anna. 2009. *Vampyrer. En kulturkritisk studie av den västerländska vampyrberättelsen från 1700-talet till 2000-talet*. 367 p. (selection) ISBN 9789176366837

Kimmel, Michael. 2012. *Manhood in America: a Cultural History*. Introduction pp. 1–10. Oxford University Press. New York. ISBN 9780199781553

Additional articles relevant to the subject. Additional non-fictional texts chosen in consultation with the teacher for the student's independent work. Ca 300 p.

**Fiction**

Del Toro, Guillermo. Hogan, Chuck. (2009) 2011. *Släktet*. Bra Böcker. 465 p. ISBN: 9789170029141

Lindqvist, Ajvide, John. 2004 or later edition. *Låt den rätte komma in*.

Meyer, Stephenie. (2006) 2008. *Om jag kunde drömma*. Swedish translation by Carina Jansson. B Wahlströms. 416 p. OR Meyer, Stephenie. *Twilight*. Any English edition.

Rice, Anne. (1976) 2009. *En vampyrs bekännelse*. Swedish translation by Annika Preis. Månpocket. 314 p. OR Rice, Anne, *Interview with the Vampire*. Any English edition.

Romkey, Michael. 1996. *I, Vampire*. Fawcett. 435 p. OR Romkey, Michael. *Jag, en vampyr*. Danish translation by Bitten Posselt Langhede. Rosenkilde. 480 p.

Additional fiction, films and TV series, ca. 300 p. or the equivalent.