



## Course syllabus

Board of Teacher Education

Department of Languages

4TYÄ2E Tyska V, inklusive självständigt arbete, avancerad nivå (ämneslärarexamen med inriktning mot arbete i gymnasieskolan), 30 högskolepoäng

4TYÄ2E German V, including independent project, second cycle (Master of arts in secondary education for upper secondary school), 30 credits

### **Main field of study**

German

### **Subject Group**

German

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2015-12-15

Revised 2019-12-03 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2020

### **Prerequisites**

German for secondary school, 1–90 credits, Independent project (15 credits) in another subject within the teacher education programme, UVK course: Philosophy of science and research methodology (Vetenskapsteori och forskningsmetodik) or the equivalent, and teaching practice placement 15 credits.

## Objectives

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

- independently identify and formulate problems relevant to further research and their future careers,
- independently assess and critically evaluate different theories, methods and academic studies and relate these to their own study and to their own future careers.

## Course structure

The student chooses between Modules 1A and 1B depending on the topic of their independent project.

**Module 1A: Theories of language learning, 7.5 credits**

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

- thoroughly account for the latest research findings in language learning and foreign-language teaching,
- plan advanced research projects and choose appropriate research methods on the basis of different theories of language learning,
- discuss various theories of language learning on the basis of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and policy documents such as national syllabi and curricula.

**Module 1B: Comparative literature in foreign-language learning, 7.5 credits**

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

- thoroughly account for current literary research results concerning foreign-language learning,
- critically review literary research projects on foreign-language learning, in terms of theoretical background and methods,
- critically review and analyse policy documents such as national syllabi and curricula.

**Module 2: Advanced subject-didactic theories and methods, 7.5 credits**

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

- discuss theories, methods and methodology in language- or literature-didactic research,
- relate theories and methods to policy documents relevant to practical educational work,
- thoroughly account for theories and methods in a research project relevant to language didactics or literature didactics,
- express themselves correctly in German writing within academic genres.

**Module 3: Independent project in German, second level, 15 credits**

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

- formulate a problem to form the basis for the independent project on the basis of well-justified choices,
- conduct a project in which the parts constitute a logical whole,
- formulate a clear aim and research questions relevant to their future careers and the subject,
- systematically present and problematise previous research and demonstrate how this relates to the aim of the project,
- present and use relevant theoretical perspectives and concepts,
- describe and justify their methods for collecting and analysing material,
- demonstrate an awareness of research-ethical issues in the completion of their project,
- analyse material in relation to their aim, research questions and a clear

- theoretical perspective,
- discuss and draw conclusions of their analysis and relate this to previous research and their chosen theoretical perspective,
  - discuss the results and their relevance for the student's future career as well as suggest further research,
  - present a project in German which is well-disposed and functional with regard to language and form,
  - defend their project with objective and relevant arguments,
  - review another student's project and present constructive criticism,
  - contribute to constructive seminar discussions.

## Content

### **Professional basis and professional progression**

In this course the students develop their understanding of their future careers as teachers. Their previous studies in UVK courses and teaching practice placement are connected to the subject and subject-didactic studies at the second level. By that, the student is prepared to contribute to the development of the basic values in professional teaching, through an inclusive approach and an awareness of aspects of equality and human rights.

### **Scientific approach and progression**

In the independent project at the second level the student has the opportunity to produce an academic text on the basis of the different parts of their education, subject studies in two subjects, teaching practice placement and UVK courses. The student independently identifies a problem area relevant for the teaching profession. On the basis of critical reviews of previous research, the student independently chooses and applies theories and methods, taking research-ethical principles into consideration. The student analyses and evaluates their own empirical material and discusses the credibility of interpretations and conclusions. In this course the future teacher's scientific approach is developed, regarding both subject-knowledge and profession, and the student is prepared for scientific discussions in their future career.

### **Module 1A: Theories of language learning, 7.5 credits**

Trainee teachers in English, French, German and Spanish study this module together. The module covers central theories within the area of language learning. The module focuses especially on what language is, how languages are learnt and how various theories have influenced language teaching. Differences and similarities between first- and second-language learning are discussed, as well as language skills, including a discussion of explicit and implicit knowledge, different ways of learning and transfer. Various theories, such as cognitive and generative approaches, as well as sociolinguistic and pragmatic perspectives are presented and discussed. In connection to this, concepts such as interlanguage, input/output and learning strategies are discussed.

### **Module 1B: Comparative literature in foreign-language learning, 7.5 credits**

Trainee teachers in English, French, German and Spanish study this module together. This module discusses various forms of applied literary theories, for example cognitive literary theory and ecocriticism, in studies of literature in foreign-language teaching.

### **Module 2: Advanced subject-didactic theories and methods, 7.5 credits**

This module includes in-depth practice in academic writing in German, focusing on the language, accuracy and structure of an independent project. The module presents and discusses various theories and methods relevant to language- and literature-didactic research and the students' future careers, with clear connections to relevant policy

documents. Methodological argumentation and formal aspects of academic writing are emphasised.

### **Module 3: Independent project in German, second level, 15 credits**

In this module the students practise formulating research questions and retrieving and assimilating relevant literature within the subject field. They also develop their skills in argumentation and analysis by writing an essay in German. The essay should have a language- or literature-didactic topic and be a specialisation based on previous didactic courses. The topic is chosen in consultation with the supervisor. The students discuss their independent projects in seminars throughout the module, and act as opponents for another student's independent project in a final seminar.

### **Type of Instruction**

In modules 1 and 2, teaching is delivered in the form of seminars, in which the student is expected to participate actively. The independent project is planned and conducted individually in consultation with the supervisor. In module 3, teaching is delivered in the form of introductory lectures, compulsory seminars and supervision, individually or in groups.

### **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 achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts.

In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction for at least 22.5 credits.

Module 1 is examined through oral presentations and a written assignment.

Module 2 is examined through oral presentations and written assignments.

Module 3 is examined through a seminar at the end of the course. In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must present and defend their independent project, critically review and act as an opponent for another student's independent project, and participate actively in other seminars. In the independent project, language and style are also assessed.

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**

#### **Module 1A: Theories of language learning, 7.5 credits**

Abrahamsson, Niclas. 2009. *Andraspråksinläring*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. 150 p. in selection.

Mitchell, Rosamund & Myles, Florence. 2013. *Second language learning theories*. London: Arnold. 228 p.

VanPatten, Bill & Williams, Jessica. 2007. *Theories in Second Language Acquisition. An introduction*. New York/London: Routledge. 261 p.

Additional language-specific literature is chosen in consultation with the examiner and the teacher responsible for the course.

### **Module 1B: Comparative literature in foreign-language learning, 7.5 credits**

Bartosch, Roman et al. 2014. *Teaching Environments: Ecocritical Encounters*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang AG. 259 p. ISBN 9783631638507.

Garrard, Greg. 2012. *Ecocriticism*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge. 230 p. ISBN 0415667860.

Jaén, Isabel & Simon, Julien Jacques (eds.) 2013. *Cognitive Literary Studies: Current Themes and New Directions*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 261 p. ISBN 9780292754423.

Keen, Suzanne. 2007. *Empathy and the Novel*. Oxford/ New York: Oxford University Press. 242 p. ISBN 9780195175769.

Nikolajeva, Maria. 2014. *Reading for Learning: Cognitive Approaches to Children's Literature*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company. 255 p. ISBN 90272 01579.

Research articles and fiction (provided by the department or available online), ca 350 p.

### **Module 2: Advanced subject-didactic theories and methods, 7.5 credits**

Daniela Caspari, Friederike Klippel, Michael K. Legutke, Karen Schramm (eds.). *Forschungsmethoden in der Fremdsprachendidaktik. Ein Handbuch*. Tübingen: Narr, 2016. 330 p.

A didactic dissertation relevant to the teaching of German, or an equivalent, long, scientific text on a language- or literature-didactic topic, and at least two research articles which complement the chosen dissertation and together with the dissertation cover the basic issues relevant to the student's independent project. These texts are chosen in consultation with the examiner and the teacher responsible for the course.

### **Module 3: Independent project in German, second level, 15 credits**

Literature relevant for the chosen topic is chosen in consultation with the examiner and the supervisor.

*Additional study material*

Bryman, Alan. *Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder*. Stockholm: Liber, 2018 or later edition.

Kvale, Steinar, Brinkmann, Svend. *Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun*. 3rd edition. Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2014.

Johansson, Bo & Svedner, Per Olov. *Examensarbetet i lärarutbildningen*. Uppsala: Kunskapsföretaget, 2010.

Stukát, Staffan. *Att skriva examensarbete inom utbildningsvetenskap*. Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2011 or later edition.

Trost, Jan & Hultåker, Oscar. *Enkätboken*. 5th edition. Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2016 or later edition.