

## ENGC17, English: Literature and Medicine, 7.5 credits

*Engelska: Litteratur och medicin, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-12-12 (U 2024/869) and was last revised on 2026-02-16 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/51). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

### General information

This course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included as part of a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

-                      G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students are to be able to

#### Knowledge and understanding

- provide a basic account of different historical stages in the the relation between literature and medicine, from the eighteenth century to the present;
- account for the different developments of, and approaches in, twentieth- and twenty-first-century medical humanities;
- explain and apply theoretical concepts from medical anthropology, body studies, narrative theory, and other areas.

## Competence and skills

- discuss, both orally and in writing, the relation between literature and medicine, historically and conceptually;
- discuss and analyse literature about illness and health in the different stages of life from a medical-humanities perspective.

## Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on their knowledge of, and affective response to, health and illness;
- reflect on their awareness of the lived experience of ageing and disability.

## Course content

Health and illness have always featured in literary texts. The course showcases how the two fields of medicine and literature have crossed over and developed alongside each other. It asks how medicine, as an art, practice and science, shapes representations of embodied figures and public institutions in literature and, conversely, how literary texts have historically impacted on medical practice. In addition, the course spotlights how literary texts across genre boundaries can invite readers to engage with the affective side of health and illness including such strong emotions as embarrassment and shame. Central to the course are the debates about empathy and the pro-social function of certain works of literature as well as the strand of medical humanities that seeks out difficult, unspeakable, unacknowledged and invisible experiences.

## Course design

The course is based on active participation, discussion, and reflection. The teaching consists of scheduled classes consisting of lecture components, teacher-supervised discussions, and group discussions. As part of their learning, participants write a short text during the course and obtain formative feedback on this.

## Assessment

The course is assessed by (i) participation in six–seven seminars; (ii) a short written assignment (650-750 words); (iii) a short oral presentation to be presented during a seminar; and (iv) a written assignment (1800-2200 words) to be submitted at the end of the course.

The examiner may deviate from the regular form of examination if it cannot be implemented during a retake. Information about retakes should be available at the beginning of the course.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Students will be awarded a maximum of 100 points, divided between the four tasks as follows:

- Participation in seminars: 6 points
- Short written assignment: 24 points
- Oral assignment: 20 points
- Final written assignment: 50 points

The first three tasks above are assessed on a Pass/Fail basis, where a student who completes the assignment satisfactorily is awarded the specified number of points. The final individual written assignment will be awarded a maximum of 50 points, based on grading criteria that will be available at the start of the course.

A minimum of 67 points (out of the maximum total of 100 points) is required to pass the course. In order to pass the course with the grade "Pass with distinction", a minimum of 85 points (out of a maximum of 100 points) is required.

### **Entry requirements**

General eligibility and 30 credits from the humanities, social sciences, or medicine.

### **Further information**

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.