

## ENG20, English: Early Climate Fiction, 7.5 credits

*Engelska: Tidig klimatfiktio , 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 2025-05-26 (U 2025/409). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-05-26 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

### General information

The 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

- communicate an understanding, both orally and in writing, of the representation of physical environment as it is represented in the course literature;
- at a basic level, give an account of ecocritical concepts that are covered in the course, such as 'environment', 'apocalypse', 'climate', and 'environmentalism';
- at a basic level, give an account of the development of climate (prose) fiction in English in the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries;

## Competence and skills

- apply, both orally and in writing, ecocriticism to climate fiction;

## Judgement and approach

- reflect on the environment from different perspectives in literary and cultural studies.

## Course content

In this course, we will read a variety of texts in terms of how these works depict and theorize the environment, and we will examine concepts such as "environment", "apocalypse", "climate", and "environmentalism" in terms of how they are imagined, shaped, and created by specific cultural contexts. As an academic practice and a theoretical model, ecocriticism first manifested itself in 1990s era studies of eighteenth and nineteenth-century literature and culture in English.

Environmentalism, as a social movement, is a product of the 1960s and was sparked in the United States by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. In the twenty-first century, ecocriticism has developed into a burgeoning field at many universities around the world. In this course, we will study early climate fiction in English, seeking to redefine the genre not as an innovation of the late twentieth century but rather a continuation of the earlier impulses in science fiction that began in the late 1800s. We will cover well-known authors such as Edgar Allan Poe and H. G. Wells and less well-known ones such as Clare Winger Harris and Thea von Harbou.

## Course design

The course is based on active participation, discussion, and reflection. The teaching consists of seven scheduled sessions comprising lecture components, seminars and group discussions.

## Assessment

The course is examined through one short oral discussion contribution in connection with the seminars, and one final paper of 1,500 words on a relevant topic. Students are free to choose their own topic in consultation with the course convenor.

If the student does not complete the course with a Pass grade, an opportunity to resit the examination in accordance the regulatory framework of the faculty is given. 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

To pass the course at least 67 points av 100 possible are required. For the grade Pass with distinction, at least 85 points are required. The discussion contribution in the seminar gives a maximum of 10 points. The final paper gives a maximum of 90 points.

## **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires at least 30 credits (högskolepoäng) in completed first-cycle courses in the subject English.

## **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.