

ENG21, English Literature and Fairytales, 7.5 credits

Engelsk litteratur och sagor, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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 2025-12-01 (U 2025/904). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. The course can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- explain at a basic level the key theoretical concepts of the course, such as intertextuality, genre, symbol, archetype and metaphor, as well as the cultural contexts the course deals with, such as Europe and nineteenth-century India
- communicate an understanding, both orally and in writing, of the structure, characters and genre conventions of fairy tales
- communicate in speech and writing an understanding of fairy tales from the English-speaking world.

Competence and skills

- discuss and write about the stories covered in the course based on relevant theoretical concepts and perspectives, such as structuralism, post-colonialism, feminism and psychoanalysis
- analyse the form and content of the stories covered in the course in relation to their cultural and historical contexts
- critically evaluate the societal role of fairy tales and how they relate to society.

Judgement and approach

- compare, evaluate and argue for different analyses of the fairy tales covered in the course based on the above concepts and perspectives
- identify their own need for further knowledge and professional development.

Course content

The course introduces students to fairy tales as a literary genre, a motif and a cultural phenomenon. The course is predominantly based on fairy tales from the English-speaking world, contemporary as well as older texts, but students also read variations of these tales taken from other cultural contexts. The course thus touches on the key thematic and theoretical issues of the genre. These include the structure of the story; the complex relationship of fairy tales to the norms and ethical issues of their time; feminist, queer and post-colonial responses; and key metaphors in fairy tales. By working on these issues, the course encourages students to reflect and critically discuss the role of fairy tales in contemporary culture and our society.

Course design

The course is based on participation in teaching, discussion, reading and both oral and written feedback on the course material. The teaching consists of scheduled teaching sessions including lectures, seminars and group discussions. Students are expected to bring their own insights into the course literature to the teaching sessions, and to participate in the discussion sessions by sharing their thoughts and ideas with the group.

Assessment

The assessment is based on (i) participation in six scheduled seminars; (ii) a written assignment (1,800-2,200 words) to be submitted at the end of the course; (iii) and a short recorded oral commentary on the written assignment submitted in conjunction with it.

The examiner may deviate from the regular form of assessment if it cannot be implemented during a re-examination, and if it complies with the learning outcomes of the course. Information about retakes will 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 are awarded a maximum of 100 points, which are distributed among the assessed assignments as follows:

- Participation in seminars: 18 points
- Writing assignment: 60 points
- Oral assignment: 22 points

Participation in seminars and the oral assignment are graded as either Pass or Fail, meaning that a student who completes the assignments satisfactorily is awarded the points. The written assignment is worth a maximum of 60 points and will be graded according to criteria distributed at the start of the course.

A minimum of 67 points is required for a grade of Pass for the course. A minimum of 85 points is required for a grade of Pass with Distinction.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and 30 credits in 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.
- In the semesters the course is offered, it is also included as an elective course in ENKG03, ENGH15, ÄEND24 and semester 3 of the Bachelor's programme in English.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.