



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## ENGC24, Identity and Desire in Early Modern English Literature, 7.5 credits

*Identitet och begär i den tidigmoderna engelska litteraturen, 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 2026-06-12 (U 2026/276). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-15 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

### 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 conceptual and contextual elements of the course, such as different literary genres (for instance sonnet, metaphysical poetry), different historical periods (for instance, medieval, Renaissance), different systems of thought (for instance, secularism, humanism), and the relationships between them;
- communicate orally and in writing an understanding of the relationship between a selection of Early Modern English writing and new ideas about humanity and its place in the world;

- communicate orally and in writing an understanding of the course texts, addressing both content and style;

### **Competence and skills**

- analyse and discuss the texts studied on the course using relevant theoretical concepts and perspectives, such as 'identity' and 'self-fashioning';
- analyse the relationship between the texts studied on the course and their cultural and historical contexts;
- evaluate the usefulness of critical terms like 'Renaissance' and 'Early Modern';

### **Judgement and approach**

- formulate, evaluate, and compare academic and scholarly arguments about the texts studied on the course;
- critically evaluate the idea of 'periods' in the study of literature;
- identify their own need for further knowledge and professional development.

### **Course content**

This course offers a survey of early modern poetry and drama (c. 1200-1600), with particular focus on writing which engages with various forms of desire (romantic, sexual, material, economic, spiritual, et cetera). One of the key themes of the course is that modern European understandings of 'identity', 'individuality', and 'individualism' emerge from early modern writing about desire, where increasingly secular attitudes to the human condition contest with the religious ideas inherited from the mediaeval period. As well as introducing a range of early-modern writing, the course will address concepts such as 'humanism', 'liberalism', and the idea of a 'Renaissance' or 'rebirth' in early-modern Europe of Classical Greek and Roman culture. It will also develop understanding of key literary forms (for example, the sonnet) and devices (for example, the metaphysical 'conceit'). The course also examines how what we call 'English literature' emerged, at least in part, in the early modern period, out of a conversation with Italian writing.

### **Course design**

The course is based on active participation, discussion, and reflection. The teaching consists of scheduled classroom sessions comprising lecture components and group discussions. Students have a chance to offer their own reflections through a short oral presentation of an individual text.

### **Assessment**

The course is examined through participation in 6-7 seminars, an optional oral presentation, and an essay of 2,500 words, to be submitted at the end of the course. Students are free to choose their own topic in consultation with the course convenor.

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

The essay gives a maximum of 80 points and is assessed according to grading criteria distributed at the start of the course. Participation in seminars gives a maximum of 12 points. The optional oral presentation gives a maximum of 8 points. For a grade of G (pass), at least 67 points are required; for a grade of VG (pass with distinction), at least 85 points are required.

## 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 ENK03, ENH15, ÄEND24 and semester 3 of the Bachelor's programme in English.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.