

LIVA14, Comparative Literature: Level 1 and 2, 60 credits

Litteraturvetenskap: Grund- och fortsättningskurs, 60 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2022-12-15 and was last revised on 2026-03-02 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/120). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

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

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Comparative Literature G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student is to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of the central themes and works in western literature from Antiquity to the present day.
- communicate a basic understanding of literature from non-European language areas,
- at a general level, describe the historically important ideas of the art of poetry,
- describe and exemplify the conditions of literature throughout history,

Competence and skills

- analyse and interpret literary texts and their functions in the shifting historical contexts of aesthetics, genre, class, gender and ideology
- use basic terms and concepts to discuss, write and make oral presentations about literature in different situations
- apply modern theories and methods of literary criticism,
- identify, formulate and execute independent assignments in which issues of literary studies are addressed with a basic scholarly approach to sources and literature within predetermined time frames,

Judgement and approach

- relate the values of literature and literary studies to general societal and scholarly approaches
- judge and evaluate interpretations of different literary works
- identify their own need for further knowledge and expertise

Course content

The course provides students with basic skills to analyse, interpret, and discuss literary texts, as well as a basic ability, in line with shifting practical applications, in speech and in writing, to communicate knowledge and experiences about literature. The course also provides a broad spectrum of current scholarly theories about literature as well as basic skills to apply theoretical perspectives and terms to individual literary works.

Four of the modules of the course also provides basic knowledge of the history of literature from Classical Antiquity to the present day – about how the societal and cultural function of literature has shifted throughout history and how the conditions to write, publish, distribute, understand and discuss literature have changed between different eras and literary cultures. The emphasis of the course is on the history of Western literature, but certain perspectives are included on the history of literature in other parts of the world.

The course is finished with an individual written paper.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Fundamentals of Literary Study: The Analysis of Narrative, Poetry and Drama, 7.5 credits
2. Survey of Literary History, introductory course: From Antiquity to the Renaissance, 7.5 credits
3. Survey of Literary History, introductory course: From the Seventeenth Century to Romanticism, 7.5 credits
4. Fundamentals of Literary Study: The Author, the Public Sphere and Society, 7.5 credits
5. Fundamentals of Literary Study: Theoretical Perspectives on Contemporary Literature,, 7.5 credits
6. Literary history, introductory course: From Realism to Symbolism, 7.5 credits
7. Literary history, introductory course: From Modernism to the present day, 7.5 credits

8. Paper. Written advanced course, 7.5 credits

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, discussion seminars and supervision.

Compulsory components occur in the following modules:

Module 1: 3 seminars

Module 5: 5 seminars

Module 8: 1 seminar

In the case of non-attendance, a supplementary assignment according to the teacher's instructions is required.

Assessment

1. Fundamentals of Literary Studies, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam
2. From Antiquity to the Renaissance, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam
3. From the the Seventeenth Century to Romanticism, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam
4. The conditions of the literature today, 7.5 credits, is examined through a group project (3 credits) and a take-home exam (4,5 credits)
5. Theoretical perspectives on contemporary literature, 7.5 credits, is examined through a take-home exam
6. From Realism to Symbolism, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam
7. From the Modernism to today, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam
8. Paper, 7.5 credits, is examined through an individual written paper.

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

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on at least 30 of the course's 60 credits.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: History 1b/1a1+1a2 and Social Studies 1b/1a1+1a2 or History A and Social Studies A

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course replaces LIVA04.

- 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.
- For further details, see current registration and information materials.
- Module titles in Swedish:
 1. Litteraturvetenskapens grunder: Att analysera litterära texter
 2. Litteraturhistoriska perspektiv: Från antiken till renässansen
 3. Litteraturhistoriska perspektiv: Från barocken till romantiken
 4. Litteraturvetenskapens grunder: Litteraturens villkor idag
 5. Litteraturvetenskapens grunder: Teoretiska perspektiv på samtida litteratur
 6. Litteraturhistoriska perspektiv: Från realismen till symbolismen
 7. Litteraturhistoriska perspektiv: Från modernismen till idag,
 8. Uppsats: Skriftlig fördjupningskurs