

LIVA29, Comparative Literature: Literary Perspectives on Mental Illness and Suffering, 7.5 credits

*Litteraturvetenskap: Litterära perspektiv på psykisk sjukdom och ohälsa, 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 2024-06-03 (U 2024/417) and was last revised on 2025-09-08 (U 2025/643). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-09 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. The course can be included in a general qualification for first or second-cycle studies.

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, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of some important examples from literary history of the treatment of mental illness and ill-health,
- based on a set framework, give an account of the literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health and how they relate to the times in which they were written.

Competence and skills

- analyse and interpret literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health based on literary-critical and existential issues,
- interpret literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health based on an understanding of their different genres and media,
- independently express themselves in writing about literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health,

Judgement and approach

- assess and evaluate interpretations of literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health,
- reflect on mental illness and ill-health as a literary theme and as culturally and historically conditioned phenomena.

Course content

The course covers literary depictions of mental illness and ill-health to provide literary and existential perspectives on these themes and on individual works. It provides basic knowledge about strands in literary history regarding the treatment of mental illness and ill-health. It provides students with skills in interpreting, understanding and discussing individual literary, essayistic and analytical works. The course focuses on the potential of the theme to process existential issues as well as issues relevant to individuals working in healthcare, and aims to create insights into the interdisciplinary possibilities that arise in the interaction between these different environments.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and approximately 10 compulsory seminars. Absence from occasional seminars can be compensated for in writing in accordance with the lecturer's instructions, but attendance at at least 50% of the seminars is required for finishing the course.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on an oral presentation and a 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, the student must have been awarded the grade of Pass on both of the assessed components.

For the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must also have been awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on the written exam.

Entry requirements

General requirements

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.
- For further details, see current registration and information material