

LIVA31, Comparative Literature: Children's Literature - Level 1, 30 credits

Litteraturvetenskap: Barnlitteratur - grundkurs, 30 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 2023-12-07 (U 2023/954) and was last revised on 2025-09-08 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/636). 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. It can normally be included in a first or second-cycle qualification.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study

Comparative Literature with
specialization in Children's Literature

Specialisation

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 general literary-critical terminology and in particular the one that occurs in the field of children's literature,
- give a general description of the history of children's and youth literature up to the present day,
- give a general description of how children's and youth literature is developed in the media society,

- describe how children's and youth literature emerges from different historical, educational and literary preconditions and becomes established as a cultural factor,
- give an account of the position of children's and youth literature in the past and the present day,
- give a general description of how ideas around children and childhood have been produced and performed in text and image through history,

Competence and skills

- place children's and youth literature into further contexts for example social, economic, cultural, art history and ideological,
- carry out oral discussions in groups and make oral presentations of knowledge acquired during the course,
- apply the literary-critical and children's literature terminology to different types of texts,
- reflect on the functions children's and youth literature has in society,

Judgement and approach

- relate the values of children's and youth literature 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 gives a familiarity with general terminology of literary-criticism and children's literary terminology and provides knowledge of the historical development of children's and youth literature and about how children and the youth literature is growing and becoming established as cultural factor. Furthermore, children's and adolescents' literature is put in in children's culture and societal contexts. Several different genres and forms of expression, such as picture-books, chapter books, poetry, novels, series, film and theatre are observed. The course also provides knowledge of the development of children's literature in media society.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Introduction, Children's Literature and Culture in Sweden, 7.5 credits
2. History of Children's and Youth Literature up to 1850, 7.5 credits
3. History of Children's and Youth Literature from 1850 to 1975, 7.5 credits
4. History of Children's and Youth Literature from 1975, 7.5 credits

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises, discussion seminars and field trips.

Assessment

Assessment of Module 1 is based on 3 seminars (3 credits) (grade U, G) and through a take-home exam (4.5 credits) (grade U, G, VG).

Assessment of Module 2 is based on one invigilated exam (7.5 credits) (grade U, G, VG).

Assessment of Module 3 is based on 3 seminars (3 credits) (grade U, G) and an oral examination (4.5 credits) (grade U, G, VG).

Assessment of Module 4 is based on an oral presentation (3 credits) (grade U, G, VG) and a written assignment (4.5 credits) (grade U, G, VG).

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

Active participation in seminars is awarded one of the grades Pass or Fail.

For the grade of pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all modules. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on at least 12 of the 24 credits of the course where the grade Pass with distinction is awarded and a grade of Pass on the remaining credits.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course replaces LIVA15, Literature: Children's Literature.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information materials.
- Module names in Swedish:

1. Introduktion, Barnlitteratur och -kultur i Sverige
2. Barn- och ungdomslitteraturens historia fram till 1850
3. Barn- och ungdomslitteraturens historia från 1850 till 1975
4. Barn- och ungdomslitteraturens historia från 1975