

LIVB10, Comparative Literature: Level 1, 30 credits

Litteraturvetenskap: 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 2023-03-07 (U 2023/205) 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 2026/121). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered in the Bachelor's programme in Comparative Literature. It can 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 students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of key developments and works in Western literature from Classical Antiquity up to and including Romanticism
- communicate a basic understanding of older literature from non-European language areas
- on a general level, describe the historically important concepts of poetry up to and including Romanticism
- describe and illustrate the linguistic and distribution-related conditions for literature in different periods

- describe and illustrate the economic, political and ideological conditions for literature throughout history

Competence and skills

- analyse and interpret literary texts and their functions in the shifting historical contexts relating to aesthetics, genre, society, gender and ideology.
- apply basic terms and concepts from literary studies in relation to different types of literary texts
- discuss, write about and make oral presentations on literature in different contexts

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 basic skills to analyse, interpret and discuss literary texts and the ability, in line with shifting practical applications, to communicate knowledge and experiences about literature. The course also provides basic knowledge of the history of literature from Classical Antiquity up to and including Romanticism – 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 consists of the following modules:

1. Fundamentals of Literary Studies: The Analysis of Narrative, Poetry and Drama, 7.5 credits
2. Survey of Literary History: From Antiquity to the Renaissance, 7.5 credits
3. Survey of Literary History: From the Seventeenth Century to Romanticism, 7.5 credits
4. Fundamentals of Literary Studies: The Author, the Public Sphere and Society, 7.5 credits

Course design

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

Three compulsory seminars occur in module 1.

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

Assessment

1. The Analysis of Narrative, Poetry and Drama, 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 Seventeenth Century to Romanticism, 7.5 credits, is examined through an invigilated exam.
4. The Author, the Public Sphere and Society, 7.5 credits, is examined through a group project (3 credits) and a take-home exam (4,5 credits).

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 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 15 credits of the course's 30 credits and a grade of Pass on the remaining 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.
- This course replaces LIVA11 + LIVA21 and LIVA12 + LIVA22. It also replaces LIVA01 and overlaps with the first 30 credits in LIVA04 and LIVA14.
- 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 material.
- Module names 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.