Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LIVB20, Comparative Literature: Level 2, 30 credits

Litteraturvetenskap: Fortsättningskurs, 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 2023-05-18 (U 2023/390) and was last revised on 2026-08-17 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/439). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-08-17 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered within 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 currents and works in Western literature from realism to the present day,
- show a certain understanding of newer literature from non-European language areas,
- on a general level, describe the historically important concepts of poetry from realism to the present day,
- describe and illustrate the linguistic and distribution conditions for literature from realism to the present day,

This is a translation of the syllabus which was established in Swedish.

- describe and illustrate the financial, political and ideological conditions for literature from realism to the present day,

Competence and skills

- apply modern literary theories and methods,
- analyse and interpret literary texts and their functions in the shifting historical contexts relating to aesthetics, genre, society, gender and ideology,
- use basic terms and concepts to discuss, write and make oral presentations about literature in different contexts,
- identify, formulate and execute independent assignments in which issues related to 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 basic knowledge of a broad spectrum of current scholarly theories of literature as well as basic skills to apply theoretical perspectives and terms to individual literary works. The course also provides basic knowledge of the history of literature from the 19th century to the present day, including 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 course focuses on the history of Western literature, but the history of literature in other parts of the world is included to a certain extent.

The course is finished with an individual written paper.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Fundamentals of Literary Studies: Theoretical Perspectives on Contemporary Literature, 7.5 credits
2. Survey of Literary History: From Realism to Symbolism, 7.5 credits
3. Survey of Literary History: From Modernism to Today, 7.5 credits
4. Paper. Specialised Written Assignment, 7.5 credits

Course design

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

The following modules include compulsory components:

Module 1: 5 seminars

Module 4: 1 seminar

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

Assessment

1. Theoretical Perspectives on Contemporary Literature, 7.5 credits, is assessed through a take-home exam.

2. From Realism to Symbolism, 7.5 credits, is assessed through an invigilated exam.

3. From Modernism to Today, 7.5 credits, is assessed through an invigilated exam.

4. Paper, 7.5 credits, is assessed through an independent project.

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.
- The course shares content with 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 materials.
- Module names in Swedish:

1. Teoretiska perspektiv på samtida litteratur
2. Litteraturhistorisk översiktskurs: Från realismen till symbolismen
3. Litteraturhistorisk översiktskurs: Från modernismen till idag
4. Uppsats: Skriftlig fördjupningskurs