



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LIVR93, Literature - Culture - Media: Life Writing in English, 15 credits

Litteratur - kultur - medier: Life Writing på engelska, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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 2024-12-12 (U 2024/889). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-01-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is included as an elective course in the Master's (120 credits) programme Literature-Culture-Media. It is also offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Literature-Culture-Media with
specialization in English Literature

Specialisation

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle
course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the history of life writing in English and its place in historical and contemporary debates about the history of literature in English;
- account for historical and emergent scholarly discussions of life writing, such as notions of subjectivity and authorship, the concept of the autobiographical pact, and the entwinement of selfhood with material, cultural, political and environmental factors;
- account for how life writing as a genre has often engaged with, amongst other things, questions about nature and the environment.

Competence and skills

- interpret both historical and contemporary modes of life writing across different genres and formats;
- apply a range of historical and contemporary critical methodologies to the study of life writing;
- make correct and appropriate use of literary critical terminology as part of independent arguments.

Judgement and approach

- discuss how works of life writing engage a range of aesthetic, philosophical, socio-political, and environmental concerns,
- discuss life writing and scholarly materials with reference to the cultural-historical conditions in which they were produced and to which they respond.

Course content

The course will introduce students to life writing from a wide selection of genres, media, and cultural and historical contexts, from classic autobiographies to new forms of biographical and autobiographical writing in popular culture. It examines the relationship between these works and the various discourses (gender, ethnicity, class, nationality, etc.) from which they arise and which they transform. The course also deals with key positions in contemporary literary theory (intersectionality, queer theory, medical and environmental humanities, etc.) and their application to the reading and interpretation of literary texts.

Course design

The course is taught in the form of seminars, combining short lectures by seminar leaders with close reading and discussion of set primary texts and associated secondary material.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by a final, take-home exam of 12-15 pages, closely focused on the course themes and contents.

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 a grade of G (pass) at least 67% is required overall; for a grade of VG (pass with distinction), at least 85% is required overall.

Entry requirements

Bachelor course in English (ENGL03) with specialisation in literature, or equivalent.

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.