

POLA18, Polish Literature, Film and Culture from 1939 until Present , 15 credits

Polsk litteratur, film och kultur från 1939 fram till idag, 15 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 2026-08-19 (U 2026/414). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-08-19 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

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

Language of instruction: English

The course is taught in English with primary literature that can be read in English, Swedish or Polish.

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

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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

- explain the historical evolution of Polish literature from 1939 until Present
- describe the literary works studied during the course and place them in a cultural and historical context
- describe the expression of literature in popular culture, for example in theatre, film, television, and popular music

Competence and skills

- analyze the literary works in relation to relevant literary, philosophical and intellectual contexts,
- critically discuss and interpret literature and film orally and in writing

Judgement and approach

- formulate independent and critical viewpoints on different interpretations and ethical aspects presented in literary works
- independently and critically evaluate different interpretations and ethical aspects of the narratives in literary works and films

Course content

The course aims to explore Polish literature, film, and culture from 1939 to the present day. The two modules explore literature and film in relation to various themes. Following a historical overview, the literary and cinematic material is studied in relation to key historical events - the Second World War and communism - and finally in relation to the present day. Particular attention is paid to how literary, cinematic, and cultural forms of expression reflect and relate to historical experiences, political changes, memory culture, gender issues, and societal changes. The course also addresses the role of popular culture, primarily film, but also art and music.

By studying Polish literature, film, and culture from these perspectives, students gain a deeper understanding of the political and social processes that have shaped Poland's cultural and national identity, as well as how this identity relates to a broader European context.

The course contains two modules:

Module 1: Historical Overview and The Memory of War, 7.5 credits

Module 2: The Time of Communism and Current Voices in Literature and Film, 7.5 credits

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

The course is offered online, and it uses interactive information technology. Students are required to participate on this basis and to have access to a computer with an internet connection, a camera and a microphone.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed through a written assignment supplemented by oral discussion.

Module 2 is assessed through a written assignment supplemented by oral discussion.

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 at least this grade on both modules. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on the written assignments on both modules.

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 materials.
- Module names in Swedish:

1. Delkurs 1: Historisk översikt och krigets minne, 7,5 högskolepoäng
2. Delkurs 2: Kommunismens tid samt nutida röster i litteratur och film, 7,5 högskolepoäng