Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

SVEA43, Swedish Linguistics, Part 1, 30 credits

Svenska med språkvetenskaplig inriktning, del 1, 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 2023-10-11 (U 2023/769) and was last revised on 2025-08-18 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/386). 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 general qualification for both first and second-cycle studies.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Swedish	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

- provide an in-depth account of Swedish grammar,
- account for the basics of Swedish phonology and phonetics,
- account for the difference between normative and descriptive grammar,
- account for basic terms and concepts in text linguistics,
- account for a number of genres and text types in modern text society,
- account for factors that affect the readability and intelligibility of texts,
- describe how texts can convey meaning at different levels,

- describe a selection of theories, methods and concepts for linguistic analysis of various types of nonfiction texts including multi-modal analysis,
- give an account of factors that influence how texts are read and understood in various communication situations,
- describe the main features of some of the changes in written orthography, morphology and syntax that have led to present-day standard written Swedish,
- recognise some fundamental features in Swedish dialects and in the range of Swedish place names and personal names,

Competence and skills

- analyse and describe the Swedish language at different levels: word, phrase, and clause levels, with regard to form, function and meaning,
- analyse and describe syntactic variation,
- use works of reference such as the Swedish Academy grammatical work and Swedish dictionaries,
- parse and do a grammatical analysis of authentic language samples,
- do a phonological analysis of authentic language samples,
- apply text analysis and discourse analysis models and concepts to Swedish texts to answer research questions in a well-reasoned manner,
- analyse and describe the genre norms and genre variation in public information texts,
- explain peculiarities of modern language from a historical perspective,
- use dictionaries to make a passable interpretation of early Swedish texts from the early Middle Ages and onwards, and make relevant observations of them from the perspective of language history,
- acquire information about historical language use by using various, mostly digital, dictionaries,
- approximately date an unknown text on the basis of language criteria,

Judgement and approach

- discuss and take a position on questions that concern syntactical, morphological and phonological variation,
- take a scientific approach to grammar in speech and writing,
- evaluate a text based on the communication situation and context,
- discuss and reflect on the significance and function of texts in society from various text analysis and discourse analysis perspectives.

Course content

Students apply a scientific approach to the Swedish language and to grammar, texts and language history. The Swedish language is analysed and described on different levels during the course: word, phrase, clause and text level. The students deepen their understanding of Swedish grammar and are introduced to Swedish phonology and phonetics. The students learn to actively use grammatical works and dictionaries in both digital and analogue formats. Students practice analysing texts as regards

their provisions, structure and linguistic features. Students deepen their understanding of text theory by analysing nonfiction texts from different genres and with the help of various text analysis models. Theories on readability and intelligibility are introduced. Students also study how the structure of texts creates certain understanding on the part of the reader. Throughout the course, scientific perspectives on language change are highlighted. Language variation and change over time are studied, focusing on the period from the runic era and up to 1900.

The course consists of the following modules:

Module 1: Swedish Grammar, 7.5 credits

The module introduces grammar and lexical semantics, and students are trained to analyse and describe the Swedish language at different levels: word, phrase, and clause levels, with regard to form, function and meaning.

Module 2: Textual Knowledge and Text Analysis, 7.5 credits

The module introduces linguistic text analysis, and the students practice describing the linguistic features of various texts and genres using text analysis tools. The function of texts in society and their power to influence in e.g. political contexts are addressed. Text analysis methods to investigate the readability and intelligibility of texts are introduced.

Module 3: Text, Genres and Discourses, 5 credits

The aim of the module is to help students develop advanced understanding of how text and discourse analysis can be used to examine texts and communication in society. The relationship between form, function and intelligibility is of central importance. The students are introduced to a few different theories of relevance to the analysis of nonfiction. Different methods of text analysis, such as critical discourse analysis and visual text analysis, are applied to the practical analysis of texts from various public information genres.

Module 4: Grammatical Description and Analysis, 5 credits

The module provides advanced and broadened study of the structure of the Swedish language. Emphasis is on active use of grammatical works, above all that of the Swedish Academy. The module also provides an introduction to Swedish phonology and phonetics.

Module 5: History of the Swedish Language, 5 credits

The module gives a general account of the development of the Swedish language from the runic era until around 1900. The development of different linguistic levels is studied in a selection texts from different periods and within various text genres. The linguistic mechanisms and societal change that may have caused the studied language changes are addressed.

Course design

The course is offered at a rate of 50% of full-time study during daytime hours. For further details, see current registration and information materials.

Module 1: The teaching consists of lectures and exercises.

Module 2: The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and seminars. The module includes 3-5 compulsory seminars. Absence is compensated for with a written assignment. The module also includes a compulsory written assignment in the form of an analysis.

Module 3: The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and seminars. The module includes 2-4 compulsory seminars. Absence from compulsory seminars is compensated for with written assignments. The module also includes 2 compulsory written assignments.

Module 4: The teaching consists of lectures and practical exercises.

Module 5: The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and seminars. The students work with texts from different periods during the module. They study and discuss the texts in groups and with the whole class.

Assessment

Module 1: Assessment is based on 1 written invigilated exam.

Module 2: Assessment is based on 1 written take-home exam.

Module 3: Assessment is based on 1 written invigilated exam.

Module 4: Assessment is based on 3-4 written assignments. To achieve a Pass (G), the student must obtain at least a Pass on all assignments. To achieve a Distinction (VG), the student must obtain a Distinction on at least two of the assignments.

Module 5: Assessment is based on 1 written invigilated exam.

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 the grade of Pass on all modules. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must also have been awarded this grade on at least 17.5 of the course credits.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course is a course package offered at a rate of 50% of full-time study. It corresponds to parts of the courses SVEA41, Swedish Linguistics: Level 1, and SVEA42, Swedish Linguistics: Level 2.
- 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.
- To be admitted to the course, the student must have good written and oral proficiency in Swedish.
- Module names in Swedish:

1. Svensk grammatik,
2. Textkunskap och textanalys,

3. Texter, genrer och diskurser.
4. Grammatisk beskrivning och analys.
5. Svensk språkhistoria.