

Arts

Comparative Literature

The study of literature is about books. Their topic, more often than not, is human beings and being human. To this we add a load of books about books. Literary students aim to find out how texts are made and have been made throughout history, and how they interact with readers and in society. It is quite an exciting story.

The staff at the Department has weekly office hours when the students are welcome to study-counseling (at other times by appointment). The course literature is available for reading at the Department.

Introduction to Finland-Swedish literature

103700.1

10 credits

Lectured course

Basic level, no prerequisites

Offered: Spring 2014

Lecturers: FM Freja Rudels and FM Katja Sandqvist

Contact hours: 30

Aim and content: The course focuses on twentieth-century Finland-Swedish prose and poetry in English translation. Beginning with the modernists, Edith Södergran, Elmer Diktonius, Gunnar Björling and Hagar Olsson, we also deal with post-war writers of poetry and prose such as Claes Andersson, Bo Carpelan, Monika Fagerholm, Tove Jansson, Solveig von Schoultz, Henrik Tikkanen, Märta Tikkanen and Kjell Westö.

During the course we read poetry and prose from the twentieth century, as well as secondary texts which help us understand and discuss Finland-Swedish literature. We will discuss both themes of the texts as well as their aesthetic features. A great deal of focus will be put on the students' own impressions and opinions of the texts. We will put the texts into a Finland-Swedish context and take on a minority literature perspective, but will also be discussing how these texts fit into a broader, international perspective. What is Finland-Swedish Literature? How has the culture in which these texts were written influenced them? Are there patterns or tendencies to be found among them? What makes them unique? And what do they bring to readers from abroad today?

The sessions will consist of the students' short work presentations, lectures and above all discussions of the literary texts.

Course outline:

- 1: Introduction
- 2: About Finland-Swedish Literature
- 3: Modernist poetry (Edith Södergran, Elmer Diktonius, Gunnar Björling)
- 4: Brave New Voices (Hagar Olsson, Märta Tikkanen)
- 5: In and around the Moominvalley (Tove Jansson)
- 6: "Angry Young Men" – Memoirs and Politics (Claes Andersson, Henrik Tikkanen)
- 7: A Poetic Point of View (Solveig von Schoultz, Bo Carpelan)
- 8: A Great Finland-Swedish Novel? (Monika Fagerholm + video screening)
- 9: The New Millennium (Westö)

Literature:

Andersson, Claes: What Became Words

Antas, Maria: "The Continual Meeting. A few words on a small body of literature and its unlikely changes"

Antas, Maria : "Finnish Contemporary Literature: A Wealth of Voices"

Björling, Gunnar: poems in Ice Around Our Lips
 Carpelan, Bo: Room Without Walls. Selected Poems
 Diktonius, Elmer: poems in Ice Around Our Lips
 Ekman, Michel: "Whose language is this, anyway?"
 Fagerholm, Monika: Wonderful Women by the Water
 Ingström, Pia: "A Cycle of Pictures: Monica Fagerholm's Wonderful Women by the Sea"
 Jansson, Tove: Moominpappa at Sea
 Jansson, Tove: Art in Nature
 McDuff, David: "Introduction", Ice Around Our Lips
 Olsson, Hagar: "My Soul Is Troubled by Conflicting Names", excerpted from Chitambo
 Schoolfield, George C.: "A Sense of Minority", A History of Finland's Literature
 Schoultz, Solveig von: Heartwork. Selected Short Stories
 Smith, Neil (ed.): "Collected Thoughts"
 Södergran, Edith: poems in Ice Around Our Lips
 Tikkanen, Henrik: A Winter's Day
 Tikkanen, Märta: Manrape
 Westö, Kjell: Lang
 (All texts are found in a special course folder available to the participants.)

Comparative Religion

The teachers at the department of Comparative religion welcome English-speaking students to many of our courses. We provide a handful of lectured courses in English (even though most courses are of course given in Swedish). In addition to lectured courses, several courses are provided as self-study courses (see more below).

International students interested in completing courses in comparative religion are very welcome to contact the teachers at the department in order to plan their studies. There are many possibilities to combine lectured courses and self-study courses into an interesting whole!

Lectured courses in English:

Introduction to Religion, Media, and Culture

5 credits

Basic level

Lectured course

Offered: Autumn 2013

Lecturer: Marcus Moberg

Aim: To provide an introduction to the study of the present-day interplay between religion, media, and contemporary everyday cultural practices in particular connection to contemporary broader processes of religious change in the Western world.

Entry requirements: None

Literature: In consultation with examiner

Religion and movies

117210.1

10 credits

Basic level

Lectured course/ seminars

Offered: Spring 2014

Lecturer: Sofia Sjö

Aim: to provide an overview over the relationship between religion and film from a historical and a theoretical/ methodological perspective and present the basic tools for analyzing religion and film. The function of religion in film, how film shapes religion, and how religion affects film are discussed

Comparative religion is the branch of the study of religions concerned with the systematic comparison of the doctrines and practices of the world's religions. In general the comparative study of religion yields a deeper understanding of the fundamental philosophical concerns of religion such as ethi. Joel McHale discussed an incident that happened during filming of "Comparative Religion" in a 2014 interview he had with Aisha Tyler on her podcast "Girl on Guy". In the scene where his character Jeff was being trained by Pierce, Chevy Chase egged Joel to not pretend to throw a punch and actually hit the training mitt he was wearing. Although Joel refused to at first, eventually he claimed to have done just that which resulted in Chevy getting injured.