



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
English

Syllabus

Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters

Course Code:	ENADL8
Course Title:	Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters <i>Science fiction och interkulturella möten</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
ENA (English)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2024-08-21, and is valid from the Spring semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level, in one of the main fields of study English, Comparative Literature, or Film Studies, plus upper secondary level English 6 or B, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. identify, describe, and analyse the themes and forms of English-language science fiction,
2. give an account of and reflect upon how cultural encounters are represented and problematised in English-language science fiction,
3. summarise and evaluate relevant secondary sources for science fiction studies, and
4. express themselves well in English in terms of style and structure and present convincing analyses.

Content

The course is an introduction to English-language science fiction with a focus on genre-specific thematic representations and investigations of intercultural encounters. The empirical material comprises novels, short stories, feature films, and TV series (primary sources). Encounters between humans and non-humans, between humans, and between creatures and machines are explored, as well as how such encounters with the unknown can serve as a basis for a discussion of cultural identity formation. Secondary sources include literary history texts on the science fiction genre and relevant academic articles on the primary sources.

Instruction is in the form of independent reading of primary and secondary material, seminar discussions and oral presentations, and written analyses.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual written and oral assignments plus active participation in seminars.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.