



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
English

Syllabus

African popular literature from the postcolonial novel to contemporary comics

Course Code: ENAL05

Course Title: African popular literature from the postcolonial novel to contemporary comics
Afrikansk populärlitteratur från den postkoloniala romanen till samtida serier

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 2025-09-11, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 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, and upper secondary level English 6 or English level 2, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

1. locate and describe different kinds of African popular literature,
2. describe and analyse thematic and formal elements of African popular literature,
3. give an account of and evaluate theories of African popular literature,

4. summarise and evaluate secondary material of relevance to African popular literature, and
5. express themselves well in English in terms of style and structure and present convincing analyses.

Content

The course deals with modern African literature in English, from the postcolonial novel of the 1960s onwards. The first part of the course provides an outline of early postcolonial literature and relevant literary criticism. The main focus, however, is popular literature which has been written primarily for African readers and how literary works in this category can be understood in relation to historical, economic, and societal events and changes from the 1980s onwards. The course offers students the opportunity to find out about contemporary academic debates on African popular literature, talk to African writers and cultural workers, and independently search for, study, and theorise relevant material available online.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-5 are assessed on the basis of individual written assignments. Learning outcomes 1-2 are also assessed on the basis of individual oral presentations.

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.