



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
English

## Syllabus

### **Fantasy literature: Origins, classics, and the development of a genre**

**Course Code:** ENGAFL

**Course Title:** Fantasy literature: Origins, classics, and the development of a genre  
*Fantasylitteraturens ursprung, klassiker och utveckling*

**Credits:** 7.5

**Degree Level:** Undergraduate level

**Progressive Specialisation:** First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

#### **Major Field of Study:**

#### **Course Approval**

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-03-04, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

#### **Prerequisites**

General admission requirements and upper secondary level English 6 or B

#### **Learning Outcomes**

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

1. give a general account of the historical development of fantasy literature in English until today,
2. give an account of basic concepts and theories in literary studies that are relevant for the fantasy genre,
3. apply literary concepts and theories in analyses of fantasy literature, and
4. express themselves well in spoken and written Standard English in terms of correctness

and structure.

## **Content**

The course covers the history of fantasy literature in English, from the roots of the genre in folktales, myths, and legends, via the great fantasy classics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, up until the trends and tendencies in fantasy literature today. The course also provides a basic overview of literary concepts and approaches used in fantasy research. Novels and short stories from different periods are read and discussed using relevant theoretical perspectives.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and seminar discussions. In seminars, students present and discuss their own literary analyses.

## **Reading List**

See separate document.

## **Examination**

Assessment is based on an individual oral presentation, active participation in seminars, and individual written hand-in assignments.

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.