

LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY

Department of Culture and Society (IKOS)

763A54

## **Welcome to the course Reading Gender (7,5 hp)!**

Teacher: Ann-Sofie Persson, [ann-sofie.persson@liu.se](mailto:ann-sofie.persson@liu.se)

Joint course with 716G42 and 716A15.

### **Intended learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student should on an advanced level be able to:

- Identify and describe different strategies for representing gender in literature and film in relation to the historical, social and cultural context,
- Critically analyze literary texts and films using terminology and perspectives from gender theory and literary theory.

### **Course content**

The course relies on gender theory in the analysis of literature and film within their historical, social and cultural context. Concepts and terminology from literary studies and gender theory are introduced and applied in the study of representations of gender in both film and literature.

### **Teaching and working methods**

The course is organized as lectures, seminars, group discussions and individual presentations. All seminars require preparation and demand the student's active participation. Therefore, a great deal of the course work consists of independent study. The course may be given in English.

### **Examination**

Each student is examined by way of an individual take-home assignment and active participation in the seminar.

## Primary sources

### Mandatory fiction (literature & film)

Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

Gerd Brantenberg, *Egalias döttrar/Egalia's Daughters*

Nina Bouraoui, *Garçon manqué/Pojkflickan /Tomboy*

Kimberly Peirce, *Boy's Don't Cry* (film)

### Choosable fiction for (group) presentations:

Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*

Marguerite Duras, *Älskaren/The Lover*

Julie Otsuka, *Vi kom över havet/The Buddha in the Attic*

Ocean Vuong, *En stund är vi vackra på jorden/On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

Marie Ndiaye, *Trois femmes puissantes/Tre starka kvinnor/Three Strong Women*

Mikael Niemi, *Populärmusk från Vittula / Popular Music from Vittula*

Kevin Smith, *Chasing Amy* (film)

Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain* (film) and/or Annie Proulx (novella/short story)

The texts should be read in their original language when possible or in (Swedish, English or French) translation.

## Secondary sources

*In addition to the titles indicated below, each student should independently find a scientific article/book chapter that deals with each novel/film/author from a perspective relevant to the course. Suggestions are given after each reference.*

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble. Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York & London: Routledge, 1990. Available as e-book at LiU. Read from the chapter "Subversive Bodily Acts", III and IV, p.151-193. For Swedish translations, see *Feminismer* by Lisbeth Larsson (ed.) or in Tiina Rosenberg's *Könet brinner!*.

Dieke, Ikenna. *Critical Essays on Alice Walker*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1999. Selected parts. We read one chapter (Lisam), but other chapters may be relevant.

Flotow, Luise von, Ida Hove Solberg and Enora Lessinger, "Laughing at "normality": Gerd Brantenberg's *Egalias døtre* in translation", *Lexis* [Online], 17 | 2021, Online since 15 August 2021, connection on 20 August 2021. URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/lexis/5429> ; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/lexis.5429>. An article which discusses the translation into English of *Egalia's Daughters*.

Forslid, Torbjörn. *Varför män? Om manlighet i litteraturen*. Stockholm: Carlssons förlag, 2006. Introduktionen (Lisam). If Swedish is not an option, I suggest something from *Masculinities* by R.W. Connell.

Tenngart, Paul. Chapter on feminism, gender and queer in *Litteraturteori* and feminism in Lisbeth Larsson's *Litteraturvetenskap – en inledning*. If Swedish in not an option, any introduction to feminism, gender and queer in a literary context would work, as long as it is in English or French. You can use Mary Klages, *Literary Theory. The Complete Guide*, chapters 4 and 5 on Feminist and Queer Theories.

Persson, Ann-Sofie. "Mångfald och splittring i Nina Bouraouis *Pojkflickan*". Norlit 2009. Codex and Code: Aesthetics, Language and Politics in an Age of Digital Media. Stockholm, August 6-9, 2009. Linköping Electronic Conference Proceedings 42, Linköping University Press, 2010. 419-432. (<http://www.ep.liu.se/ecp/042/ecp09042.pdf>). A reading that focuses on both gender and race. Talk to the teacher if you would like to read the text in French. If neither Swedish nor French is an option, find another scientific text of your own choice.

Persson, Ann-Sofie. "Perfomative Bodies in Nina Bouraoui's *Garçon manqué*", *The Body in Francophone Literature. Historical, Thematic and Aesthetic Perspectives*. El Hadji Malick Ndiaye & Moussa Sow (red.). Jefferson: McFarland, 2016. (Lisam) A reading that uses Butler.

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *Between Men. English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1985. 1-20. A Swedish translation is available in *Feminism*, Lisbeth Larsson (ed.). The entire book is relevant for masculinity studies.

## Preparations

As a preparation before each class, the assigned reading/viewing should be done, and you should be prepared to discuss and be able to give examples/quotes that support your interpretation. Take notes! The secondary sources should also be read before class, and you should be able to connect them to the literary work/film and present these ideas during class discussions. For each work, including the one chosen for the final presentation, you should select an additional article/scientific text, that deals with the work (or the author/director) or gender perspective in a relevant way, to be presented orally and to be integrated into the individual exam at the end. The references should be added to a common document in Lisam.

## Schedule

Week	Day	Time	Content	Room
44	Mon Oct 28th	13.15-15	Introduction: Feminism, gender theory, queer theory and masculinity studies.  Klages, chapter 4 & 5	Garn och broderi
46	Tues Nov 12th	13.15-15	Alice Walker, <i>The Color Purple</i>  From <i>Critical Essays on Alice Walker</i>	Ellen

48	Wed Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	13.15-15	Gerd Brantenberg, <i>Egalia's Daughters</i> Flotow, Luise von, Ida Hove Solberg and Enora Lessinger, "Laughing at 'normality': Gerd Brantenberg's <i>Egalias døtre</i> in translation"	Garn och broderi
50	Thu Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	13.15-15	Nina Bouraoui, <i>Tomboy</i> Judith Butler, part III and IV of chapter 3 (Subversive Bodily Acts) in <i>Gender Trouble</i> Ann-Sofie Persson, two articles on <i>Tomboy</i> Take home exams handed out.	TBA
51	Mon Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.15-12	<i>Boys Don't Cry</i> (film) Torbjörn Forslid, from <i>Varför män?</i> or Connell, <i>Masculinities</i> Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, introduction to <i>Between Men</i>	Ellen
02	Fri Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.15-12	Final (group) presentation	SVUS lärosal
03	Fri Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	Take home exams due.	

Changes will be announced in Lisam.