



Course timetable: E-master seminar

Aspects of Finnish Literature: Texts and Contexts

Autumn 16

Kotimainen kirjallisuus, Turun yliopisto/University of Turku: Viola Parente-Čapková, Elsi Hyttinen, Kaisa Kurikka, Karoliina Lumma ja Veli-Matti

Institut für Skandinavistik/Fennistik, Universität zu Köln/ University of Cologne

Legend assignments:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Discussion forum | | The assignment 'discussion forum' means that you post your answers to the questions you can find in the respective unit (post) and if indicated react to your co-students post (comment). |
| Read | | In this course timetable you find all obligatory readings (cf. list below the agenda). In round brackets you find the length of the text to be read, in squared brackets you find one of the following specifications: [online]: The text is accessible online, either integrated into the unit in ILIAS or as link to an external resource. The link to the text is to be found in the unit. [pdf]: You will get the text outside ILIAS in a reader. [bib]: You are asked to get hold of the text on your own via your local library or online databases. Please make sure you get an overview of what texts you need to obtain already in the first unit – don't wait until you are asked to read the text to start obtaining it! |
| Further readings | | Optional further readings which let you get a deeper insight into the topic. |
| Free work | | Find background information about the given topic. |
| Watch video | | Watch the video lecture, preferably a few times. All videos are integrated into the course and they can be found outside the unit in the main course area. |
| Written assignment | | Write a short essay, a presentation or an article about the given topic. Use standard formats (i.e. preferably pdf). You can hand in your document in the main course area in the box "Written assignments". Note that handing in is only possible until the given deadlines. After the deadline you can read and download your co-students' documents. |
| Written assignment (group work) | | Same as above. In some cases you are asked to work together in groups and create one document together. Your tutor will let you know what group you belong to in advance. |

Course structure:

| Unit | Chapter | Assignments | Duration & deadlines | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| Start of the course: 17.10.16 | | | | |
| 01 Introduction | About this course. How to work in an e-learning course: dos and don'ts | | 1 week | 23.10.16 |
| | Getting to know each other | Discussion forum: Present yourself (1 post) | | |
| Start of the 2nd unit: 24.10.16 | | | | |
| 02 Finnish literature - context | 02a E-lecture Viola Parente-Čapková: Contextualizing Finnish literature | Watch video: Online video lecture (45 mins) | 1 week | 30.10.16 |
| | | Read: Felski (20 pages) [online] Further readings: Lyytikäinen (18 pages) [bib] Parente-Čapková (30 pages) [bib] | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------|----------|
| | 02b Assignments | <p>Discussion forum: (3 posts + 3 comments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the question of context and contextualization – what does it mean for you? • What kind of context(ualization) –if any– have you been employing/would you employ in your literary analyses? In case you decide that you would not use any kind of contextual approach, give reasons for that and specify what kind of analysis you would prefer. • Discuss the issue of genre as context. Choose a literary work you are familiar with. Consider what kind of results would such generic contextualization yield in case of this particular work. | 1 week | 06.11.16 |
| Start of the 3rd unit: 07.11.16 | | | | |
| 03 Queer theory | 03a E-lecture Elsi Hyttinen: Queer eye on 1910s' literature | <p>Watch video: Online video lecture (20 mins)</p> <p>Read: Juvonen (10 pages) [online] Carlson & Wickman (4 pages) [online] Carlson & Ilmonen (4 pages) [online]</p> <p>Further readings: de Lauretis (25 pages) [bib]</p> | 1 week | 13.11.16 |
| | 03b Assignments | <p>Discussion forum: (2 posts + 2 comments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lecture warns against jumping into studying the context too hastily at the expense of proper reading. Do you, as a possible future literary scholar, see any dangers in the contextualizing approach to literature? Specify. • Why is studying literary history from gay, lesbian, and queer perspectives important – or is it? Explain and argue. • The lecturer discusses Eino Leino's novel The Slave for Money [Rahan orja, 1913] from a queer studies perspective. What possible advantages or difficulties do you see arising from approaching early 20th century literature through a distinctively 21st century theoretical framework? | 1 week | 20.11.16 |
| Start of the 4th unit: 21.11.16 | | | | |
| 04 Metafiction | 04a E-lecture Kaisa Kurikka: Texts, Contexts, Metatexts. Contemporary Finnish Metafiction | <p>Watch video: Online video lecture (30 mins)</p> <p>Read: Sevänen (16 pages) [pdf] Kurikka (15 pages) [pdf]</p> | 1 week | 27.11.16 |
| 04 Metafiction Contd. | 04b Assignments | <p>Discussion forum: (2 posts + 2 comments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In his article Sevänen takes up different ways of defining 'metafiction' – discuss these definitions and their mutual similarities/ differences. How do these definitions relate to the question of contextuality? Does 'metafiction' (by definition) exclude contextuality? • How does Kurikka define 'context' in her lecture? • In her article and in her lecture Kurikka introduces three different lines of metafictional writing in present-day Finland. What are the typical features of each line? Kurikka also mentions exemplary novels belonging to each line – can you name other metafictional Finnish novels? | 1 week | 04.12.16 |

| Start of the 5th unit: 05.12.16 | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------|----------|
| 05 Nature poetry | 05a E-lecture Karoliina Lummaa: The changing environment of Finnish nature poetry | Watch video: Online video lecture (40 mins) | 1 week | 11.12.16 |
| | | Read: Lummaa (5 pages) [pdf] Poems (7 pages) [online] | | |
| | 05b Assignments | Discussion forum: (2 posts + 2 comments) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem analysis How have the representations of nature changed in Finnish nature poetry since the era of national romanticism? Compare modernism and “participating poetry” (osallistuva runous) from the perspective of nature poetry. What is the difference between them? | 1 week | 18.12.16 |
| Start of the 6th unit: 19.12.16 | | | | |
| 06 The essay | 06a E-lecture Veli-Matti Pynnttäri: Essay in Finland | Watch video: Online video lecture (40 mins) | 1 week | 07.01.17 |
| | | Read: Löytty (3 pages) [online] Liukkonen (6 pages) [online] Further readings: Atkins (15 pages) [bib] Good (10 pages) [bib] | | |
| | 06b Assignments | Discussion forum: (3 posts + 3 comments) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect the idea of essay as an exceptionally personal form of literature in relation to Olli Löytty’s essay “Round and Round”. How does the form of the essay contribute to the constitution of boundaries of self? The essay has often commented questions of culture and history. Discuss the intersections of history, culture and identity in the extracts of essays by Leena Liukkonen. For the last decade or two the essay as a literary forms has been considered as being on the rise, as becoming more popular. Does this match your perception of the current literary – or extra-literary – discussion. If so, how? | 1 week | 15.01.17 |
| Evaluation | | | | 15.01.17 |
| End of the course: 15.01.17 | | | | |
| Paper due 12.02.17 (Strasbourg) ? | | | | |

Readings

- Atkins, Douglas G.: “The Most Self-centered of Forms?” In: *Ibid.: Tracing the Essay. Through Experience to Truth*. University of Georgia Press: Athens and London, 2005, 47-62.
- Carlson, Mikko, & Jan Wickman: “Between the Global/Glocal and the National: Intersectional Challenges to Queer Studies”. In: SQS 2/2011. http://www.helsinki.fi/jari/sqs/sqs2_11/sqs22011introduction-engl.pdf
- Carlson, Mikko, & Kaisa Ilmonen: “Queer Janus, or why does Queer look in two directions?” In: SQS 1-2/2012. http://www.helsinki.fi/jari/sqs/sqs12_12/sqs122012johdanto_fin.pdf
- de Lauretis, Teresa: “Figures of resistance”. In Teresa de Lauretis: *Figures of resistance Essays in Feminist Theory*. University of Illinois Press, 2007, 235-260.
- Felski, Rita: “Context Stinks!” In: *New Literary History*, 2011, 42, 573–591. Link to be found at: <http://www.engl.virginia.edu/people/rf6d>
- Good, Graham: “The essay as genre”. In: *The Observing Self. Rediscovering the Essay*. Routledge: New York and London, 1988.

- Juvonen, Tuula: "Introduction: Queering the Hegemonies of LGBT Historiography". In: SQS 01/2006. <http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/sqs/SQSJuvonen%20Intro.pdf>
- Kurikka, Kaisa: "To Use and Abuse, to Write and Rewrite: Metafictional Trends in Contemporary Finnish Prose." In: *Metaliterary Layers in Finnish Literature*. Eds. Samuli Hägg, Erkki Sevänen & Risto Turunen. Helsinki: SKS, 2008. *Studia Fennica, Litteraria* 3: 48-63.
- Liukkonen, Leena: "What does the neighbour think?" Extracts from essays in *Venäläiset tulevat* (2013). In: *Books from Finland*. Translated by Ruth Urbom. <http://www.booksfromfinland.fi/2013/04/what-does-the-neighbour-think/>
- Löytty, Olli: "Round and Round". Essay from *Kulttuurin sekakäyttäjät* (2011). In: *Books from Finland*. Translated by Hildi Hawkins. <http://www.booksfromfinland.fi/2011/12/round-and-round/>
- Lummaa, Karoliina: "The Limits and Possibilities of Symbolism. Rhetorical and Ecocritical Views on Finnish Bird Poetry of the 1960's and 1970's".
- Lyytikäinen, Pirjo: "The Allure of Decadence. French Reflections in a Finnish Looking Glass." In: Pirjo Lyytikäinen (ed.), *Changing Scenes. Encounters between European and Finnish Fin de Siècle*. *Studia Fennica Litteraria* 1. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 12–30, 2003.
- Parente-Čapková, Viola: Decadent Transgressions. In Tiina Mäntymäki & Olli Mäkinen (eds), *Art and Resistance*. Proceedings of the University of Vaasa, Research Papers 290, 2009, 15–46.
- Sevänen, Erkki: "Introduction: On the Study of Metafiction and Metaliterary Phenomena." In: *Metaliterary Layers in Finnish Literature*. Eds. Samuli Hägg, Erkki Sevänen & Risto Turunen. Helsinki: SKS, 2008. *Studia Fennica, Litteraria* 3: 9-25.