



Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts

## KONB72, Fine Arts: Close Reading Hannah Arendt, 15 credits

*Fri konst: Närläsning Hannah Arendt, 15 högskolepoäng*  
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Department Board of Malmö Art Academy on 2019-01-22 to be valid from 2019-01-22, spring semester 2019.

### General Information

Lunds University, Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Malmö Art Academy.

Optional course for the BFA programme (KGFKO).

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Fine Arts

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

GXX, First cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

### Learning outcomes

Theoretical course.

The aim is to provide the students with deepened knowledge and insight in both the artistic field which their work will be a part of and the history of how that field has developed.

To integrate analytical knowledge into their own artistic work, both in the spoken and the written language, will be given special attention.

The course aim is to enhance the students' ability to formulate and show a well-motivated artistic wholeness.

The goal is that the students shall develop a deepened understanding of artistic work.

## Course content

Hannah Arendt is one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century and was proclaimed a genius by Julia Kristeva in 2001.

Arendt defined herself as a political thinker. She reserved the concept of philosopher for people like her teachers Martin Heidegger and Karl Jaspers. In many ways, however, Arendt is a part of the great German philosophical tradition, one of whose predecessors was Friedrich Nietzsche. Thought is a key concept for Arendt, to the extent that she defined access to a conscience as the ability to think. Her last book was entitled *The Life of the Mind*.

As a stateless German Jewish refugee during the European terror of the 1930s and 1940s, Hannah Arendt knew why thought is important and why it must be converted into action. This is what she calls politics. She also knew why art is important. For her, it is the very core of a society. Without stories, there is no human community.

Art makes it possible for us to make choices, judgements and assessments. This means that it is crucial for the functioning of our conscience. And for Arendt, conscience and thought are the same thing.

We will be reading Arendt's major texts *The Origins of Totalitarianism* and *The Human Condition*, as well as the unfinished *The Life of the Mind*. We will also read some of her essays on politics and art, selecting from *Between Past and Future*, *Men in Dark Times* and *On Revolution*. If we have time, we will also look at the book she is best known for, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, in which she coined her famous concept of the banality of evil.

## Course design

The educational form will be lectures and seminars.

There may be a task in form of writing a short text.

## Assessment

For the grade pass there need to be at least 80% presence at lectures and seminars and the grade pass on tasks, if there is any.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

## **Entry requirements**

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

## Subcourses in KONB72, Fine Arts: Close Reading Hannah Arendt

Applies from V19

1901 Fine Arts: Close Reading Hannah Arendt, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass