



Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## KOVN06, Visual Culture, 30 credits

*Visual Culture, 30 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2007-05-23 to be valid from 2007-05-23, autumn semester 2007.

### General Information

The course is an obligatory component of the Master of Arts Programme in Visual Culture. The course can also be studied as a single course. It can normally be included as part of a general degree at the undergraduate or graduate levels.

*Language of instruction:* English

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is met by both the teacher and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the teacher and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

*Main field of studies*

Art History and Visual Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

#### Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give an account of and discuss the manner in which visualisation and sight structure the existence of mankind as a cultural being
- be able to give an account of the various expressions of visual culture, their constancies and changes, both historically and contextually, and be able to demonstrate extensive insight into various scholarly approaches and methods used in their analysis

### **Competence and skills**

- be able to partake in scholarly dialogue and discussion on the subject of visual culture with others within various fields which study visual phenomena
- be able to communicate their knowledge and insights, both orally and in writing, and partake in the public debate on visualisation, using a critical perspective
- be able to carry out their own research into the field of visual culture and assess research carried out by others, regarding empirical data, theory and method

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to make relevant evaluations with regard to scholarly, social and ethical aspects within the field of visuals
- be able to handle the complexity of visual culture, both current and from the past, and formulate evaluations for both specialists within the field and non-specialists
- be able to define the considerable and multifaceted importance of visuals for issues regarding identity, affiliation, integrity, control and knowledge, and for the aesthetic experience.

### **Course content**

The course covers three subject areas. The first concerns the history of change within visual culture, from Antiquity to the modern day, with particular focus on the connection and discrepancies between the technology used for the production and distribution of visual phenomena, as well as philosophies on visual phenomena and sight. Focus is also placed on a comparison between religious and secular traditions of visual images.

The second subject area examines the connection between visual phenomena, knowledge, control and power, with the human body as a carrier of expression and a prism. In particular, this course studies how power hierarchies – among others gender and ethnically based – are established, maintained and challenged in perceivable and unperceivable ways, in both the surveying and exposure of the body. Various genres, from scholarly to artistic and representations of pop culture, are examined.

The third subject area which is covered gives a parallel and comparative in-depth study into current aesthetical theory and current cultural theory, i.e. the two perspectives in which the humanistic study of visuals have, in particular, developed. Focus is on the differences between and conditions required for dialogue between these two multifaceted schools of thought, and on possible combinations of their respective paradigms, models and concepts in the study of tangible visual phenomena. Particular emphasis is placed on an in-depth and multi-dimensional study of the processes behind the creation of meaning in the visual world.

The course consists of three sub-courses:

1. The History of Visual Phenomena, 10 credits,
2. Knowledge and Power: The Body, 10 credits,
3. Aesthetics and Cultural Theory, 10 credits.

## Course design

Teaching consists of classes, seminars and group work. Participation is obligatory for assessed seminars.

## Assessment

Examinations take the form of individual submitted assignments. Oral examinations in seminar form may occur.

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

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

To be awarded a Pass on the whole course the student shall have passed all sub-courses. To be awarded Distinction on the whole course the student shall have the grade of Pass with Distinction on at least 20 of the 30 credits on the course, and a grade of Pass on all remaining credits.

## Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course requires the successful completion of 90 higher education credits from first cycle studies.

## Further information

1. The points allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
2. Priority is given to students studying other Master's programmes. In other respects normal acceptance rules apply.
3. The sub-course names in Swedish:
  1. Visualitetens historia,
  2. Kunskap och makt: Kroppen,
  3. Estetik och kulturteori.

## Subcourses in KOVN06, Visual Culture

Applies from H08

- 0701 The History of Visual Phenomena, 10,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 0702 Knowledge and Power: The Body, 10,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 0703 Aesthetics and Cultural Theory, 10,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction