



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts

KONB75, The Online Cultural Wars: Transgression, Hegemony and the Arts, 10 credits

*Kulturkrigens på nätet: överträdelser, hegemoni och konsten, 10
högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Department Board of Malmö Art Academy on 2019-09-25 to be valid from 2019-09-25, autumn semester 2019.

General Information

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

Optional course for the BFA programme (KGFKO).

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

Fine Arts

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

Learning outcomes

Theoretical course

Knowledge and understanding

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

Over the last years, what has been described as an “online cultural war” has been waged between on the one side groups of liberals, multiculturalists, and feminists, and on the other side the new right/alt-right. Irony and nihilism has been pointed out as key weapons in this war, in which right wing groups have been forming their own identity politics, co-opting the 60s left styles of transgression and counterculture.

Through bringing together perspectives from media studies, sociology, gender studies, and the arts, this course aims to look closer at how meme-making subcultural groups using transgression for its own sake, came to occupy a central place in the contemporary political debate, and how ideas of white supremacy and neo-fascism entered the mainstream.

The course is based on three inter-related themes. The first part of the course traces the background of the online cultural wars in various forms of subcultures thriving in forums such as 4Chan, 8Chan and Reddit. Here, conspiracy theorists and DIY hacker culture have merged with men’s right activists and anti-feminist political subcultures creating fertile ground for countercultural campaigns of the far-right. This part of the course will also trace the historical roots of these politics of transgressions to the ideas of philosophers such as George Bataille, Simone Weil, and Antonio Gramsci.

The second part of the course will map out the more recent events of online misogyny and racism entering mainstream media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Youtube. The focus here is on how the strategic pursuit of metapolitical debate in many public forums have led to a triumph of identity politics over economic equality as the organizing principle for mainstream political debate. This part of the course will also situate the online cultural wars in a local context, looking at how global online subcultures/countercultures have impacted the political debate in southern Sweden.

The third part of the course brings the discussion about online cultural wars into the offline world, highlighting the threat of radicalization and far-right nationalism taken to its extreme as seen in the livestreaming of terrorist attacks such as the Christchurch Mosque shootings and the “gamification of terror” as seen in the El Paso attacks of summer 2019.

The course will combine lectures and seminars with group workshops. There will be a group project on selected cases studies, and an individual project based on the key concepts and ideas studied in the course.

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 KONB75, The Online Cultural Wars: Transgression,
Hegemony and the Arts

Applies from H19

1901 The Online Cultural Wars: Transgression, Hegemony & the Arts, 10,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass