



Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts

KONB91, Whose Universal?, 6 credits

Universellt för vem?, 6 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Department Board of Malmö Art Academy on 2022-01-28 to be valid from 2022-01-28, spring semester 2022.

General Information

Lund 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

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

Whereas the modern revolutions claim to have fought to eliminate distinctions of class, caste, rank or status, the modern era is also the epoch that institutes the concept of racial difference. This is the paradox of modernity and the topic of the

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

present workshop.

The concept of race indexes a preoccupation with history, progress and forward motion to differences of skin colour. Because the non-Europeans are said to be hopelessly “behind the times” successive waves of colonial and neo-colonial depredation are, to this day, justified by the necessity to assimilate to modernity, to develop, or “catch up” if you will. Theft, or that which is taken – via enslavement, land-grabs, expropriation or plunder – can be thus codified as a gift, as the dispensation of futurity. To this day, the legacies of colonialism tend to find expression in a language contemporary audiences find familiar and compelling, and hence remains largely unquestioned. In this workshop we will confront the racial schemas that undergird Western epistemologies, by looking into:

—1492: the year Columbus ships alit on the Americas was also the year the Catholics monarchs Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon expelled Moors and Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. Are the nation state and the settler colony coconstituted?

—Does capitalism necessitate imperialism? How to discuss primitive accumulation in the 21st century?

—The transition from cultural difference to racial difference and the racialization of slavery.

—Plantation economies and the under-development of the global south.

—Race and racism in modern philosophy.

—Aesthetic expressions of race: the sublime, the grotesque, the exotic.

—On May 8, 1945, the same day the armistice was celebrated in Europe, French police massacred hundreds of townspeople in Sétif, leading French editor Claude Bourdet to ask: “Are we the Gestapo in Algeria?” What is fascism and how to narrate the continuities between fascism and imperialism?

—Identity politics and the politics of universalism: do discussions of identity subtract and divert from political struggle, or rather add to it?

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.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden