

KOVE10, Art History and Visual Culture: Level 1, 30 credits

Konsthistoria och visuella studier: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-12-01 (U 2025/791). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is compulsory within the Bachelor's Programme in Art History and Visual Studies. The course is also offered as a free-standing course.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study

Art History and Visual Studies

Specialisation

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- identify and explain in a basic way the key movements, practices, materials and techniques in art, architecture and visual culture from antiquity to the present, with a focus on the Western tradition,
- explain at a basic level historical, critical and existential perspectives on art and visual culture,

Competence and skills

- describe, analyse and interpret art, architecture and other visual objects at a basic level in terms of form, style, subject, material, technique and function,

- explain and apply, at a basic level, key art theoretical concepts in analysing works of art,
- at a basic level, in writing and orally, make historical and critical judgements about art and visual culture,

Judgement and approach

- relate art and visual culture to different social and cultural contexts at a basic level,
- at a basic level, apply the principles of source criticism.

Course content

The course provides a general historical presentation and problematisation of art and visual culture with a focus on the Western tradition. The objects of study are art, architecture, urban environment, photography, popular culture and other visual objects. The material is discussed from a historical perspective, in relation to the author, time period, cultural context and visual and stylistic tradition; critical perspectives on power, gender, ethnicity and diversity; as well as in relation to existential perspectives on man, art and image. The course includes exercises in describing, analysing and interpreting original works, orally and in writing.

The course consists of three modules:

1. Introduction to Art and Visual Culture Studies, 3 credits
2. Antiquity to 1400, 9 credits
3. 1400 to 1850, 9 credits
4. 1850 to today, 9 credits

Course design

Teaching takes the form of teacher-led lessons, seminars, group work, fieldwork and excursions with studies of original works.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed through an oral presentation.

Assessment of Module 2 is based on an invigilated written exam and a short take-home exam

Assessment of Module 3 is based on an invigilated written exam and a short take-home exam

Assessment of Module 4 is based on an invigilated written exam and a short take-home exam

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

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
For module 1 only the grade Pass is given.

For the grade of Pass on the modules 2-4, the student must have been awarded this grade on both assessed components. For the grade of Pass with distinction, a grade of Pass with distinction is required on the final invigilated exam.

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all modules. For the grade of Pass with distinction, the grade of Pass with distinction is also required in at least 2 of the modules 2, 3 and 4.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent to Swedish Upper Secondary School courses History 1b or 1a1+1a2/History level 1b or level 1a2 and Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2/Social Studies level 1b or level 1a2

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The course replaces KOVA14.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is shared with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further information. please refer to the relevant application and information material.
- The module titles in Swedish:

1. Introduktion till studier av konst och visuell kultur
2. Antiken till 1400
3. 1400 till 1850
4. 1850 till idag