



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

KOVF10, Arts, Aesthetics and Existential Resilience, 3 credits

Arts, Aesthetics and Existential Resilience, 3 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 2025-02-13 (U 2025/93). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-02-13 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

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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

- account for and discuss how arts and aesthetics can foster existential resilience,
- account for and discuss existential dimensions of arts, aesthetics and resilience,
- account for and discuss scientific and scholarly perspectives from art history and visual studies, medical humanities, and sustainability studies, on arts, aesthetics and existential resilience,

Competence and skills

- design and facilitate creative and aesthetic activities for the purpose of promoting existential resilience,

- apply relevant theories in analyzing creative and aesthetic activities in relation to existential resilience,

Judgement and approach

- understand and reflect on different scientific and scholarly perspectives on knowledge in relation to arts, aesthetics, and existential resilience,
- reflect on and assess ethical aspects in relation to arts, aesthetics and existential resilience.

Course content

This course provides students with theoretical understanding and practical, embodied knowledge of how the arts and aesthetics can be a resource for fostering existential resilience. Existential resilience is about our intrinsic ability, and need, to create and experience meaningfulness, beauty, and to develop connection with and compassion for ourselves, others and the world, also in conditions of crisis, loss and difficulty. Those human abilities lie at the core of the arts and aesthetics, which therefore carry a potential to support existential resilience. Existential resilience, in this context, is integrated with existential aspects of health and sustainability

The course is interdisciplinary and research-based, combining perspectives from the humanities with findings from research in medicine and the health sciences. It combines perspectives from art history and aesthetic theory, medical humanities and sustainability studies. It covers topics like aesthetic empathy, presence, meaning-making, and imagination, and how existential resilience link the individual, communal, and planetary levels of human life. The course also discusses different sources of knowledge about arts and aesthetics in relation to existential resilience, including empirical observation, philosophical approaches, introspection, and embodied experience. It covers also how creative and aesthetic experiences can be facilitated and mediated in varying contexts.

Course design

The course is given in a blended format combining digital teaching components with in-real-life components on site in Lund. The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. Throughout the course, as part of their learning process, students are encouraged to experiment with open-ended, sometimes non-conventional aesthetic processes, and to engage in and reflect on their own creative and aesthetic experiences.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on a portfolio which contains 2-4 of the student's achievements throughout the course.

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

To pass the course pass grade is required on all examination components.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- For further details, see current registration and information materials.