



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

KOVN15, Visual Culture: Environment and Nature, 15 credits

Visual Culture: Environment and Nature, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-03-18 to be valid from 2014-03-18, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Visual Culture. It can normally be included in a second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course is normally taught in English but may be taught in Swedish, subject to an agreement between the lecturer and students. Such an agreement requires that both lecturer and students are proficient in Swedish.

Main field of studies

Visual Culture

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 account for and discuss representations of the environment and nature, including animals and the climate, in different types of images
- be able to provide a specialised account of theories and methods within research on representations of the environment and nature
- be able to provide a specialised account of and analyse the historical, philosophical and aesthetic dimensions of representations of the environment and nature

- be able to account for and critically discuss the significance of power relations for representations of the environment and nature

Competence and skills

- be able to using appropriate terminology, participate in scholarly dialogues and debates on visual culture with scholars in other disciplines studying the environment and nature
- be able to participate in speech and writing in the public debate with critical perspectives on representations of the environment and nature
- be able to apply appropriate methods and theories to individual studies of representations of the environment and nature in the field of visual culture

Judgement and approach

- be able to make relevant assessments of the disciplinary, societal and ethical aspects of representations of the environment and nature in different media
- be able to take a position on complex representations of the environment and nature in the past and the present and, using appropriate concepts, formulate historical and theoretical judgements for both experts and non-experts
- be able to discern the multifaceted significance of representations of the environment and nature for social and political power, approaches to science, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc.
- be able to discern the multifaceted significance of representations of the environment and nature for aesthetic experience.

Course content

The course deals with the representation of the environment, nature, animals and the climate in visual arts and media, such as installations, sculptures, photographs, television programmes, computer games, science illustrations, and documentary and feature films. The representation, understanding and experience of the environment and nature are analysed and interpreted from the perspectives of history, theory of science, philosophy and intermediality, and placed in the contexts of both past and present society. The course is structured around three thematic dichotomies: animal/human, environment/nature and anthropocentrism/biocentrism.

Course design

Teaching consists of taught classes, seminars, group work and study visits. Attendance is compulsory at 1–3 seminars, 1–2 study visits and 1–3 group work sessions in which assessment will take place. Absence from compulsory components can be compensated for by written assignments.

Assessment

The assessment is based on one independently written assignment and 1–3 oral presentations.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course. At least two more opportunities for examination on the same course content will be

offered within a year of the end of the course. Subsequently, further examination opportunities will be offered but in accordance with the current syllabus.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest passing grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. A non-passing result is awarded a grade of Fail.

In order to be awarded a certain passing grade on the course as a whole, the student must have passed all assessed components and been awarded this grade on 75 per cent on them.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed 90 credits including a Bachelor's degree project of 15 credits in Art History and Visual Studies, Architecture, Film Studies, Design Studies, or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
2. Course title in Swedish: Visuell kultur: Miljö och natur
3. The credits 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.
4. Priority for admission to the course is given to students on other Master's programmes. In all other respects, normal rules of admission apply.

Subcourses in KOVN15, Visual Culture: Environment and Nature

Applies from H14

1401 Environment and nature, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A