



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

**KOVN16, Methodology in Visual Culture Studies and
Aesthetic Disciplines, 15 credits**
*Metodologi i visuella kulturstudier och de estetiska disciplinerna, 15
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2022-11-11 to be valid from 2022-11-11, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

The course is a compulsory course in the Master of Arts programme in Visual Culture. The course can also be studied as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

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The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by the lecturers and students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and all students having a good knowledge of 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 is to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for methodological concepts, issues and discussions in visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines,
- account for epistemological issues concerning the implementation of analytical and interpretative methods on visual and other kinds of aesthetic material,

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

Competence and skills

- in an independent way, implement methods for the analysis and interpretation of visual and other kind of aesthetic material,
- in an independent way and in writing, discuss methodological issues in visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines,

Judgement and approach

- contribute to a constructive critical discussion of different forms of knowledge, their potential and limitations within visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines, and in society in general.

Course content

The course covers central methodological issues and perspectives in visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines, and how these relate to the evaluation of knowledge in the humanities and academia in general. Emphasis lies on the practical implementation of methods in the analyses of different types of empirical data.

The course is made up of four modules:

1) Introduction: Concepts, principles and models (4 credits). This module treats basic concepts, e.g. *evidence and claims, description-analysis-interpretation, operationalization of term, meaning and presence*, different views on knowledge hierarchies and different metamodels of knowledge forms in visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines. The module also addresses methodological aspects of different types of data collection.

2) Methods for the analysis of individual objects of study (4 credits). This module examines analytical methods that are traditionally applied to individual objects of study. Formalistic, semiotic, phenomenological and intertextual methods are introduced with an emphasis on implementation and questions about the validity claims of these methods relevant to visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines.

3) Methods for the analysis of larger contexts through objects of study (4 credits). This module treats analytical methods that aim to produce statements about larger contexts e.g. society, the human psyche, an historical epoch or 'the human condition' via an analysis of several objects of study. The module addresses discourse-analytical methods and methodological perspectives that are based on broad assumptions about societal and historical structures such as gender, class and other power structures. Emphasis is placed on implementation and questions about representativeness and validity claims relevant to visual culture studies and adjacent aesthetic disciplines.

4) Methods for the presentation of research results (3 credits). This module deals with methods for presenting results both to the scientific community and an interested public. The module addresses academic genres such as reports, essays, articles and essays, as well as the use of media other than written text e.g. *audio papers* and *video papers*.

Course design

Teaching takes the form of lecturer-led teaching sessions, about three to five seminars and a group assignment.

Assessment

Assessment is based on four individual written assignments.

Module 1: Introduction: Concepts, principles and models, 4 credits

Module 2: Methods for the analysis of individual objects of study, 4 credits

Module 3: Methods for the analysis of larger contexts through objects of study, 4 credits

Module 4: Methods for the presentation of research results, 3 credits

In connection with the course, three examination opportunities regarding the written assignment are offered; a first examination, a retake and a catch-up exam. Within a year of the end of the course at least two additional examination sessions on the same course content are offered.

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, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is an A, and the lowest passing grade is an E. The grade for an unsatisfactory result is Fail.

The final grade is calculated as the average of the module grades, taking into account the number of credits per module.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits from first-cycle studies including a Bachelor's essay in subjects such as art history, visual studies, film studies, musicology, design studies, architecture, visual anthropology or equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Division of Art History and Visual Studies, Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- 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.
- Module titles in Swedish:

Subcourses in KOVN16, Methodology in Visual Culture Studies and Aesthetic Disciplines

Applies from H23

- 2301 Introduction: Concepts, Principles, and Models, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2302 Methods for Analyzing Single Objects of Study, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2303 Methods for Analyzing Larger Contexts, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2304 Methods for Presenting Research Results, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A