



HDK-VALAND - ACADEMY OF ART AND DESIGN

DMA41A Master's Degree Project in Design, 30 credits

Examensarbete för konstnärlig masterexamen i design, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design on 2024-03-06 to be valid from 2026-01-19, spring semester of 2026.

Field of education: Design 100%

Department: HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

Position in the educational system

The course is a programme course given in the fourth semester.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) MFA Programme in Design (K2DEN)

Main field of studies

-

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

A pass grade (G) on the following courses:

- DMA11A, Relational Practice, 22,5 credits
- DSG12A, Design Studies, 7,5 credits
- DMA21A, Social Transformation, 22,5 credits
- a pass grade of at least 7,5 credits from the course DMA31A, Engaging in the Design Practice, 30 credits.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- motivate and discuss the relevance of disciplinary issues to the knowledge field of design and the individual specialisation
- critically reflect on the limitations of practical and cognitive contributions to social transformation through an independent design project

Competence and skills

- identify and analyse design as a transdisciplinary practice to understand, reformulate and rework complex problems and concerns in relation to questions of politics, power and ecology
- autonomously investigate a disciplinary issue by using adequate artistic methods
- apply adequate methods to visually and materially communicate processes and results of an independent design project to relevant publics through different media both nationally and internationally

Judgement and approach

- autonomously discuss and evaluate methods and results of their own artistic work within a disciplinary issue in comparison to dominant knowledge systems.

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

In this course, students carry out and finalise their degree projects in which they explore relations to sites, situations, contexts and stakeholders through artistic practice and research towards the outcome of a practical part together with a compiled thesis. Students are asked to further develop ways to act through their practices and explore how they can affect the conditions and issues that they are engaging in. In the course, students advance their ability to autonomously investigate disciplinary issues in design by artistic methods and to artistically express the outcome. It also aims at enhancing students' understanding of what counts as a disciplinary topic and at developing students' abilities to evaluate and critically discuss the relevance of the issue, the method and the outcome to the knowledge field of design. Training in how to critically motivate and use referential material and how to shape adequate forms of communication of the outcome of explorative projects is also included in the course activities.

The purpose of the compiled thesis is to explore and present artistic practice and research through a written thesis. Based on the experiences and results from their individual projects, as well as academic analysis, theoretical frameworks, and other relevant referential sources within the expanded field of design, students will reflect on their position and contribution to the design community and other affected disciplines and contexts.

Form of teaching

The course consists of a practical self-defined degree project and exercises in written and oral accounts. Tutoring is offered individually as well as in a group.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The learning outcomes are examined through

- a carried out degree project in design accounted for in an oral presentation with support of visual media
- a master thesis that is handed in at the conclusion of the course
- peer assessment tasks accounted for orally at seminars.

Submission of complements to a carried out examination assignment may be allowed.

Absence from examinations may, based on the teacher's assessment, be replaced by another form of examination

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance). If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment. In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Course evaluation

Students are given the opportunity to evaluate the course anonymously at the end of the course. The result and any changes to the structure of the course should be communicated both to the students who carried out the evaluation and to the students who are to start the course.

Additional information

The student is responsible for any costs in connection with the implementation of the course.