



HDK-VALAND - ACADEMY OF ART AND DESIGN

FKADEC Design Cultures, 15 credits

Design Cultures, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by HDK - Academy of Design and Crafts on 2020-08-28 and was last revised on 2020-09-29 to be valid from 2020-09-29, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Design 100%

Department: HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

Other participating department

HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies

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Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Admission requires at least 180 credits in design, fine art, humanities or social sciences.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- identify key manifestations and boundaries of design as a cultural phenomenon
- identify and evaluate mechanisms through which design operates

- critically interpret and discuss debates that relate to design in a cultural context

Competence and skills

- formulate design criticism in the form of a written review of a selected design work, event or publication
- develop research skills that support independent work in the field of design culture
- independently investigate, analyze and discuss an aspect of design culture in an academic text
- orally present their own exploratory work on design culture
- establish dialogues with peers, fellow students or other actors through meetings, interactions and feedback.

Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate their own and others' forms of professional practice based on their significance and implications within the expanded field of design
- relate the development of design methods to broader social, societal and economic change.

Course content

Design is all around us, shaping the spaces we inhabit, the products we use, the ways we interact with our fellow humans, organizations and the natural world. Design Cultures introduces debates, case studies and methods that highlight the mechanisms through which contemporary design operates. With a focus on the expansion of the design field since the 1980s, the course examines key ideas that help us to critically analyse the driving forces behind the development of practices such as design activism, the maker movement, critical design and design thinking. The course has a particular focus on interpreting the ways in which design culture is mediated through criticism, exhibitions, industry events and academic research.

The course introduces key concepts in design culture and support students in developing their own research work within the framework of an independent written essay. The course is suitable for students who are interested in developing a critical writing practice, which may include curating, academic research, business or studio practice.

Form of teaching

The course is conducted as distance learning via the University of Gothenburg's learning platform.

The teaching takes place in the form of writing exercises, workshops and online seminars.

The course also offers individual tutoring in relation to the course assignments.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The learning outcomes are examined through a written piece of design criticism, an oral work-in-progress presentation and a written essay.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this 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 special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may 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 placements 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 results and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.

Additional information

The course requires access to a computer with video camera, microphone and internet connection.