

VART 3357 The Anthropology of Art (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II

This course introduces the study of visual anthropology, examining the visual documentation of humanity and its cultures. Exploring a variety of media objects and events, this course critically engages students into debates and issues related to photography, advertising, global mass media, material culture and the impact of new technologies.

The visual interpretation offers significant insight into our understanding of the human development in terms of our own identities, and within the wider global and historical contexts. Fragile, and often temporarily specific, the analyses of visual elements offer an intellectual platform for contextualization and decontextualization.

Exploring concepts and methods as research tools for anthropological inquiry that consider the inter-connection of reality, social perspectives, and the resulting visuality, which can help to inform and influence our ways of understanding and assimilating our lives and societies.

Through the discussions of what images mean to us, and their effects, the course will further poses crucial questions surrounding our understanding within the historical, cultural and social, value and power of vision, image and artefact. Emphasizing and contextualizing the relations between people and the visual as objects, studied both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

VART 4015 Research and Practice in Visual Arts (6,6,0) (E)

Prerequisite: Completion of minimum one BA-cluster from SMA concentration or VAS concentration

This is an independent study courses for Year 4-students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts-programme. It focuses on interdisciplinary research in the visual arts, centred around a self-generated practical creative investigation. While there are no principal formal restrictions to the investigation or the creative project – it may be of any medium or approach – students have to produce substantial research work as their outcome. This research is then to be the basis for their subsequent Honours Project.

This initial theory-based framework of the course is made up of a series of workshops that aim at consolidating, combining and extending the wide range of cross-disciplined research methods, cross-media creative approaches as well as work documentation and presentation skills that students of the programme have acquired in their previous studies so far. Participation in these workshops will help the students to independently pursue their investigations and experimentations within their personal projects in this course. These activities will also establish a time and workload structure to give guidance to the students, and provide opportunity for feedback and criticism in the further course.

To provide the students with opportunities to research the fundamentals and the context of their own intended self-assigned creative project the initial comprehensive research introductions will be followed up by a sequence of lectures, case studies, tutorials and other relevant teaching and learning activities related to the students' specific concentration of choice.

The knowledge, skills and experiences that students gained in this course are prerequisite for the Honours Project in the last term of study in the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts-programme.

VART 4055 Honours Project (3,*,*)

Prerequisite: Year III standing

The Honours Project provides a keystone experience for the student in his final year in the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme. It gives the student an opportunity to prove his capability of solving independently and self-reliantly a self-generated assignment in the work-field of the Visual Arts. He will apply the concepts and skills gained on the programme to the investigation. In successfully doing so the student will meet academic and creative standards that allow the Academy to confer the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts degree on him.

The Honours Project has to be completed by all students during

their final term of study in the BA (Hons) Visual Arts programme. To increase students' performance during the development of their Honours Project, and as preparation for their careers after graduation the Honours Project includes a series of required workshops.

VASC 7010 Intensive Workshop I (0,0,3) (E)/(P)

VASC 7020 Intensive Workshop II (0,0,3) (E)

VASC 7030 Intensive Workshop III (0,0,3) (E)

VASC 7040 Intensive Workshop IV (0,0,3) (E)

VASC 7050 Intensive Workshop V (0,0,3) (E)

Course names/mediums would be announced to students in the Master of Visual Arts programme at the beginning of the trimester.

VASC 7100 Research Practice for the Visual Arts (3,3,0) (E)/(P)

Twenty-first century witnesses visual arts practitioners merging cultural concerns, research, and process of making into creative output that highlights the complexities of life experiences; and explores new territories. In equipping students' artistic inquiry, this course introduces various research practice, informed by practice-led research, that are common in visual arts and design, including autobiographical writing, state of art review, typological study, data visualisation, qualitative interviewing technique, oral history, user experience, archival research, sensory ethnography as well as collaborative and participatory action research in the arts. Such pedagogical approach aims at preparing students to set direction and methodological concern to their own research interests, be they phenomenological, through discourse analysis, feminism or action research. Bringing methodology into professional practice, students will go through the process of research and apprehend the significance of practice-led research in the context and currency of visual arts and academia.

VASC 7200 Professional Practice for the Visual Arts (3,3,0) (E)/(P)

A graduate in any area of the visual arts entering the professional arena today cannot expect to be looking forward to a streamlined career. Instead his/her career will be a patchwork of activities crossing all boundaries from art-making to applied design commissions, occasional administrative jobs to part-time teaching and back. They will work in a variety of contexts from self-employed freelancing to private agencies, corporate structures and the public sector. This course aims at equipping students with basic knowledge and skills in a variety of professional fields that will help students to jumpstart their professional practice in the visual arts.

The course is made up by a sequence of workshops delivered by professional specialists and visual arts practitioners. Each workshop includes lectures, seminar-style talks as well as small practical assignments, which allow participants to get some initial hands-on experience within the respective area. The intention of the course however is not to educate specialists, it rather aims to make aspiring professionals of the field aware of these matters, sketch the situation and indicate comprehensive ways of approaching problems arising.

VASC 7300 Interdisciplinary Practice for the Visual Arts (3,4,0) (E)/(P)

"Creativity isn't the monopoly of artists." This remarkable claim made by Joseph Beuys back in 1979 denotes not only the liberation but also the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary art. Over the past decades, all sorts of collaborations among different artistic disciplines, areas of knowledge and various stakeholders in the society have opened up the diversity and openness of creative practice.

By introducing the background and current trends of interdisciplinary practice in connection to visual arts, this course provides students with new insights to rethink about the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of visual artists in our time. As

a shared course being offered to all students from various MVA programmes, it will utilize this particular setup to also address common areas of socio-cultural concerns, strategies and skills for team work as well as the management of creative process for practitioners from different visual arts fields.

VASE 7100 Contemporary Art Issues (6,8,0) (E)

No one seems to agree on any precise definition of the term "Contemporary Art". Various stakeholders in the field such as art historians, critics, curators, artists and audiences might interpret it in distinct ways from very diverse perspectives. Nevertheless, it is quite agreeable that the development of contemporary art has been connecting to and influencing by complex socio-cultural factors internationally since mid-20th century. To identify and to construct critical discourse on relevant socio-cultural issues is probably the most comprehensive way to conceive the development of art and culture in our contemporary era.

Through its combination of theoretical investigation and supervised studio practice, students are able to examine the nature of art and culture within its contemporary context. Wide range of issues in connection to current trends of contemporary art and culture will be discussed along with the study of relevant art theories, movements and artists' works. Both local and global perspectives are to be employed in the discussion.

Students are expected to acquire informed awareness on those issues and to develop critical response within own creative practice. The choice of art form(s)/media, the relevant media skills and techniques as well as their relations with the identified topics/issues are considered to be the emphasis of the creative practice.

VASE 7200 Extended Context/Extended Media (6,8,0) (E)

The course expects students to experiment beyond traditional artistic media by exploring possibilities of employing creative practices like craft, popular communication media, expanded cinema, multimedia, virtual communities, interior architecture, etc. It encourages students to pay attention to various medium forms in everyday life encounter and formulate strategies to appropriate them for artistic practices.

The course adopts an inter-disciplinary approach. Reference will be drawn from areas like communication studies, sociology, human computer interaction, architecture, game studies, and media art practices. The studies function as theoretical foundations for students to engage themselves in the investigations and creations of artistic outputs through guided experiments of the extended media. Students work with their designated supervisors in related media to develop a body of works in the course of the study.

VASE 7300 Master Project for Studio Arts and Extended Media (6,*,*)

The Master Project embodies research, development and realization of an independent body of work under the supervision of a supervisory team (Principal Supervisor and Secondary Supervisor). The final outcomes of the Master Project could be a series of artistic work on a defined topic. The format and deliverables of the Master Project should base on the individual learning contract which is agreed between the student and the supervisory team before the beginning of the last trimester. The outcomes should demonstrate students' mastery of the knowledge, skills and professional attitude throughout the programme.

VAUT 7100 Call for Future: New Artistic Tactics (6,8,0)

This course aims to introduce the theory, history and context of Utopics and the relationship of art and design to public and private spheres. Exposed to artists working with new creative tactics in both local and international contexts, past and present case studies, students understand art making is both a theoretical and practical intervention on the ground for cultural advancement.

Artistic practices will be reviewed and examined in topics including ecology, sustainability, autonomy of public space, urban play, connectivity, regeneration, community building, citizen reporting and creative activism.

This course will broaden students' horizons of contemporary visual art practices as well as the understanding of current hot cultural debates. Students will learn to discuss and appropriate artistic practices, hence to involve the cultural issues. They will work on small-scale projects, as a testing ground to put theory into practice.

VAUT 7200 Critically Engaged: Artistic Practices in Context (6,8,0)

This is a project-based course which seeks to develop and test modes of praxis through practice-led and practice-based research to develop major projects within local cultural context. Students will learn how to heuristically translate the complexities of sustainable living into individual possibilities for actions.

Participation and engagement are the essence of Utopics. The course offers students knowledge to engage themselves critically to Hong Kong culture (and that of neighbouring cities) through current projects/movements. Hence, topics of lectures may change every year. Issues including local and international perspectives on collaboration and negotiation, ethics and copyright/left will be discussed in relation to students' projects. Students will also develop their ability to discuss and critique artistic projects with social and cultural concerns.

Collaborations with individual artists, community workers, NGOs and arts groups are encouraged to render interdisciplinary cooperation among various fields of arts and science, social services, journalism, urban planning, education, architecture, urban-agriculture, etc. This does not just aim at building up connections for students in their future projects but also constructing positive linkages between academia and communities.

VAUT 7300 Master Project for Utopics (6,*,*)

The Master Project embodies research, development and realization of an independent body of work under the supervision of a supervisory team (Principal Supervisor and Secondary Supervisor). The final outcomes of the Master Project could be a series of artistic work or a project developed and delivered for/with an art organization on a defined topic. The format and deliverables of the Master Project should base on the individual learning contract which is agreed between the student and the supervisory team before the beginning of the last trimester. The outcomes should demonstrate students' mastery of the knowledge, skills and professional attitude throughout the programme.

WRIT 1005 Creativity: Theory and Practice (3,3,0) (C)/(E)

The course aims to help students acquire a systematic and up-to-date knowledge of the meanings of creativity, from theoretical and descriptive points of view with experiential learning to engage students in exploring their own creative potentialities and the practical applications particularly in writing. We will discuss different theories of creativity in literature, philosophy, and other disciplines, and examine the notion through the examples from various cultural and artistic forms. We also analyse how creative economy commodifies creativity as some kind of asset.

WRIT 2005 Biography Writing (3,2,1) (E)

This course aims at introducing to students a particular genre of personal writing, the biography. In this reading and writing course, students will conceptualize, research, write and revise biographical narratives. Questions of how to structure and select, how lives can be written in an authentic way, and how to do justice to other's lives will be tackled. Students will also experience, through appreciating masterpieces of biographical writing, the diverse ways in which other authors have also written lives.