

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 (6,8,0) in Context

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.