



Course Syllabus

Decolonizing Architecture (60 ECTS-credits)

Arkitekturens avkolonialisering (60 hp)

Course Code: DEKL23

Established by: The Department Board for Research and Further Education within Architecture and Fine Art

Date Established: 2023-02-14

Valid: From fall semester 2023 until further

Main Field of Study: Fine Art

Area of Specialization: Fine Art

Education: Freestanding Course

Level of Specialization: AXX

Grading Scale: Pass-Fail

Education Cycle

Second-cycle course.

Entry Requirements

General entry requirements:

General requirements for advanced level courses.

Specific entry requirements: Degree of Master of Fine Arts, or a Master's degree in another relevant field of study, or prior learning (equivalent professional experience).

An advanced reflection about the thematic of the course.

Selection

The selection is based on the applicant's, CV, 3 -5 work samples, and letter of intent. In the letter, the candidate should include an advanced reflection about the thematic of the course and should motivate in which ways the conceptual frame of the course is relevant for the upcoming study.

Language of Instruction

English.

Scope of the Course and Rate of Study

60 credits, full time.

Aim

The course aims to critically reflect upon the effects of spatial transformations in society by combining theory and practice with individual and collective research. The course is intended for those with studies or experiences in architecture, art, urbanism, artistic research, radical pedagogies, decolonial theory, or activism who are interested in the ideological, social, and political dimensions of Architecture.

Course Content

The course uses the term decolonization as a critical position and conceptual frame for an artistic-architectural research practice engaged in social and political struggles.

In this course architectural space is seen simultaneously as the product of the interaction of social and political transformations and as a privileged site for the analysis of these dynamics. Drawing on the wealth of literature, recently discovered archive materials, and empirical research undertaken on the subject in the fields of geography, urban studies, politics, sociology and anthropology, the course's methodological foundation remains anchored in the uniqueness of architectural analysis and spatial intervention.

Forms of Teaching and Structure of the Course

The course does not offer a pre-packed system of knowledge, but helps the participants build their own individual and collective framework that gives meaning to actions and practices.

Participants are asked to select a site, understood not only as physical space but also as a community, or a body, as a source of knowledge and the anchor for their research practice and intervention.

The course is conducted through compulsory scheduled teaching periods and contains the following teaching elements,

The course contains:

- Study trip
- Seminars
- Lectures
- Study visits
- Individual artistic work
- Group work
- Tutoring individually and in group
- Workshops
- Public presentation

The course is divided into two modules during one academic year:

Module 1 – *Decolonizing Architecture A* (30 ECTS-credits)

Module 2 – *Decolonizing Architecture B* (30 ECTS-credits)

Learning Outcomes

After the completion of the module *Decolonizing Architecture A*, students are expected to be able to:

- Critically reflect about the theoretical debate around critical spatial practices
- Define a driving concept towards the individual research

After the completion of the module *Decolonizing Architecture B*, students are expected to be able to:

- Work collectively while preserving a rigorous intellectual trajectory
- Create the foundations for an independent research project
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Assessment

Module 1 - *Decolonizing Architecture A* (30 ECTS-credits) is examined by ensuring that the student has submitted a mid-term assignment based on the learning outcomes and has taken an active part in the seminars and lectures, with a minimum of 80% attendance.

Module 2 - *Decolonizing Architecture B* (30 ECTS-credits) is examined by the student's participation in a public presentation with the presence of external critics, where the individual artistic and architectural research developed over the year is used as a support structure for a discursive-exhibition. The student should also have taken an active part in the seminars and lectures, with a minimum of 80% attendance.

If there are special reasons, the examiner may make exceptions to the examination form and allow a student to be examined in another way. Special reasons may be documented disability.

Course Requirements

In order to pass the course, a passing grade on the examination assignment is required as well as completed attendance of at least 80% of all teaching.

In the event of absence from compulsory teaching, the examiner may decide to give the student supplementary assignments instead.

More extensive absence from compulsory teaching may mean that the student cannot make up for the missed teaching until the next time the course is given.

Grading Criteria

Pass: The student has met the expected learning outcomes and course requirements.

Fail: The student has not met the expected learning outcomes and course requirements.

Course literature and other study resources

There is no obligatory course literature, but a list of reference literature will be distributed during the academic year.

Other Terms and Conditions

Costs may be incurred for study trips. Students who are unable to participate in the study trip will be given an alternative assignment.

The Validity of the Course Syllabus

The syllabus is valid from the academic year 2023/2024 and until further notice.

After discontinuation, the student is entitled to be examined once a semester for the following 3 semesters.