



Course Syllabus

Decolonizing Architecture VIII: Difficult Heritage (60 ECTS)

Course code: DECO21
Main field of study: Fine Art
Disciplinary domain: Fine Art
Grading: Pass – Fail
Level of progression: AXX
Education: Freestanding course
Level: Second-cycle
Established by: UFN/ERC
Date of establishment: 2021-01-19
Date of revision:
Valid: Academic year 2021/2022

Education cycle
Second-cycle course.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements: General requirements for freestanding courses at a second cycle level.

Specific entry requirements: Degree of Master of Architecture or Fine Arts, or a Master's degree in another relevant field of study, or equivalent relevant professional experience and English 5 and 6, or equivalent knowledge in English.

Selection

The selection is based on the applicant's CV that shows the applicant's previous projects, portfolio and experiences and a letter of intent. In the letter, the candidate should motivate in which ways the conceptual frame of the course is relevant for his or her upcoming study.

Language of instruction

English.

Scope of the course and the rate of study

60 ECTS- credits, full-time.

Course objectives

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 also aims to reflect and intervene in the debate regarding the architectural heritage associated with painful and violent memories of the past. 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.

Learning outcomes

After module 1, *Decolonizing Architecture A (30 ECTS)*, the students are expected to:

- Show an ability to take part in advanced theoretical debates around critical spatial practices
- Show an ability to define a driving concept towards the individual research in architecture

After module 2, *Decolonizing Architecture B (30 ECTS)*, the students are expected to:

- Show an ability to work collectively while preserving a rigorous intellectual trajectory
- Show an ability to create the foundations for developing an independent research project

Course content

The course will focus on the rural towns built in the 1940s by the “Entity of Colonization of Sicily” during the fascist regime. These rural towns were built by the regime to “reclaim,” “modernize,” and “repopulate” the south of Italy which was considered “empty,” “underdeveloped,” and “backward”. The analysis of these towns will also offer students the opportunity to problematize the persistence of today’s colonial relationship with the countryside, especially after the renewed interest in the countryside as a solution for the pandemic. Parallel to the collective research, every student is asked to do research on an individual case study of difficult heritage. The intersection between individual and collective research is shared with a larger public presentation at the end of the year in a discursive exhibition.

Forms of teaching

The teaching is conducted as:

- Collective readings
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Individual and group supervision
- Lectures
- Site visits and studies trips

The course is divided into three mandatory intensive blocks per semester with one week intertwined by individual and collective tutorials, readings, and seminars. Between the blocks, the participants independently develop their work and research by writing, reading, drawing, interviewing etc, and conduct site visits.

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

Assessment

The first module, *Decolonizing Architecture A, 30 ECTS*, is examined by the student submitting an assignment based on the learning outcomes and active participation in the mandatory seminars and lectures.

The second module - *Decolonizing Architecture B, 30 ECTS*, is examined by the course leader together with an external jury and is based on a public presentation where the individual artistic and architectural research developed over the year is used as a support structure for a discursive-exhibition.

Examiner

The Examiner is nominated by the Area Head.

Course requirements

To pass the course, active participation in the mandatory scheduled teaching is required (with a minimum of 75% attendance), a submission of an assignment and a participation in the public presentation at the end of the year. To pass the course, all the above parts must be performed in a way that meet the expected learning outcomes.

Grading Criteria

Pass – The student has met the expected learning outcomes.

Fail – The student has not met the expected learning outcomes.

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

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The validity of the course syllabus

The course syllabus is valid 2021-2022. After discontinuation, the student is entitled to be examined once a term for the following 18 months.