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Master's Programme

## Semester 1

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

### Entering the Field: Political Culture

#### Full course description

Political culture is widely deployed as an analytical concept by scholars from different disciplines, ranging from political science to philosophy, sociology, history, and cultural studies. Quite what is meant by it, however, is often assumed to be self-evident rather than in need of explanation. In practice, scholars often understand the concept in divergent and sometimes contradictory ways. This course is intended as an introduction into the study of modern political culture. It takes as its point of departure the ways in which the humanities have integrated and modified the concept since the gradual inclusion of culture as a main analytical category in empirical work on 'the political'. As such, it explores some of the major ways of thinking and writing about political culture by analysing how scholars have hitherto addressed the symbolic, discursive, and performative elements of politics. It focuses on an analysis of fundamental problems of modern political culture, zooming in on the themes of representation, equality, mobilisation, engagement, violence, stability, protest, solidarity, individuality, identity, and populism. These subjects are explored through case studies drawn from the 19th to 21st centuries, the implications of which are directly related to key political problems and societal debates of our own age.

#### Course objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the divergent theoretical understandings and uses of the concept of political culture across different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences
- Analyse, compare, and interpret the most influential scholarly literature on key expressions of modern political culture and summarise major scholarly debates in the field
- Understand, differentiate, and critically assess how scholars have studied political culture in practice to explore specific case studies with empirical methods
- Identify, retrieve, synthesise, and critically appraise scholarly secondary sources to build evidence-based arguments; and to use ethical rules related to scholarly work, including the proper use of referencing
- Understand key scholarly methodologies that are used to study modern political culture
- Participate in academic debates on modern political culture within an international PBL classroom, with an awareness for the requirements of interdisciplinary and intercultural communication

## Recommended reading

Paul Lichterman and Daniel Cefai, 'The Idea of Political Culture', in: R. Goodin and C. Tilly (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*, pp. 392-414.

Stephen Welch, *The Theory of Political Culture* (Oxford, 2013).

Pierre Rosanvallon, *The Society of Equals* (Cambridge, MA, 2013).

Clive Seale (ed.), *Researching Society and Culture* (4th ed., London, 2017).

MPC4000

Period 1

4 Sep 2023

27 Oct 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Erlichman](#)

Teaching methods:

Work in subgroups, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

political culture, representation, Equality, mobilisation, violence, stability, protest, Solidarity, individuality, Identity

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Research and Writing I

### Full course description

This skills training runs parallel to the content course *Entering the Field*. The skills training focuses on finding, exploring and summarising the readings that students will use when they write their library research paper in the content course. Through interactive lectures and tutorial sessions, students will learn how to use online catalogues, how to read and summarise academic texts, how to write a literature review, and how to give formal peer feedback. Attention will be given to the use of bibliographic software, the principles of correct referencing, and how to avoid plagiarism. To practice their reading and writing skills, students will write a literature review of three readings. The skills training is assessed through writing peer feedback on two literature reviews of fellow students.

### Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students are be able to:

Master Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

use library resources and online catalogues

read and summarise academic texts

write a literature review

give formal peer feedback

## Recommended reading

Abbott, A. (2014). *Digital Paper. A Manual for Researching and Writing with Library and Internet Materials*. The University of Chicago Press.

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2003). *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Nygaard, L. (2015). *Writing for Scholars: A Practical Guide to Making Sense & Being Heard*. Sage

MAC4501

Period 1

4 Sep 2023

27 Oct 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

1.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T. Viola](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Assignment(s), Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation and paper

Keywords:

Online catalogues, reading and summarising, literature review, referencing, plagiarism, peerfeedback

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Researching the Field: Democracy, Identity, and Communication

### Full course description

This course will introduce and give you a chance to examine and experiment with different approaches to researching topics in Modern Political Culture. The course contains three intertwined cycles each dealing with a topic area that is central to the study of political culture: democracy, identity, and communication. Through this course you will gain an understanding and competence with some of the different ways questions about democracy, identity and communication are currently studied in academic research, but we will also examine how academic research can

## Master Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

feedback to policy in relation to these areas. This will then help to prepare you for the research that you will yourself undertake in periods 3 and 4, as well as in the thesis trajectory. Some of the approaches that we will look at include political theory, conceptual engineering, hermeneutics, political anthropology, history of ideas, political and intellectual history, political sociology, social psychology. The specific course content will change from year to year in order to stay aligned with the state-of-the-art and the research expertise and interests of the teaching team.

### Course objectives

This course will help you to build competencies in a number of key areas. These include:

Applying knowledge of a range of contemporary theories and approaches relating to democratic governance, social and political identity, and scientific and political communication

Critically evaluating ideas, arguments and evidence presented in the scholarly literature addressing the topics of the course

Intervening constructively in oral academic debates with your peers in the graduate level, international PBL classroom in relation to the main themes of the course and the state-of-the-art in the scholarly literature

Expressing your comprehension and being able to critically evaluate the state-of-the-art literature using an appropriately high standard of academic writing and written argumentation in a research paper.

### Recommended reading

Appiah, K. A. (2019). *The lies that bind: Rethinking identity : creed, country, colour, class, culture*.

Bak-Coleman, J. B., Alfano, M., Barfuss, W., Bergstrom, C. T., Centeno, M. A., Couzin, I. D., Donges, J. F., Galesic, M., Gersick, A. S., Jacquet, J., Kao, A. B., Moran, R. E., Romanczuk, P., Rubenstein, D. I., Tombak, K. J., Van Bavel, J. J., & Weber, E. U. (2021). Stewardship of global collective behavior. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 118(27), e2025764118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2025764118>

Graeber, D. & Wengrow, D. (2021). *The Dawn of Everything. A new history of humanity*. Allen Lane.

Lefort, C., & Thompson, J. B. (1986). *Political forms of modern society*. Polity Press.

Scharfbillig, M., Smillie, L., Mair, D., Sienkiewicz, M., Keimer, J., Pinho Dos Santos, R., Vinagreiro Alves, H., Vecchione, E. and Scheunemann, L., *Values and Identities - a policymaker's guide*, EUR 30800 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021, ISBN 978-92-76-40966-3, doi:10.2760/022780, JRC126150.

MPC4001

Period 2

30 Oct 2023

22 Dec 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [D.E. Meacham](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Paper(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

democracy, political identity, political theory, research, conceptual analysis, feedback to policy,

Research methods, political communication

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Research and Writing II

### Full course description

This skills training is related to the content course Researching the Field. The skills training will teach students how to analyse primary and secondary sources in an original way. Students will learn how to formulate a research question. This research question guides the writing of their research paper in the content course. They will also learn how to construct convincing arguments, and how theories are used to create an analytical or interpretative framework. These skills will be practiced in the writing of a two page proposal for the paper that students write in the content course. This paper will be assessed as E/P/F. As a preparation for the writing of the thesis proposal in period 3, students will work on the topic and research question for their MA thesis.

### Course objectives

At the end of the course, you are able to

make academic and original use of primary and secondary sources

formulate a research question

understand how arguments are constructed

write a research paper proposal

understand how theories are used to construct an analytical framework/interpretation

formulate a thesis research question.

### Prerequisites

Research and Writing I

## Recommended reading

Abbott, A. (2014). *Digital Paper. A Manual for Researching and Writing with Library and Internet Materials*. The University of Chicago Press.

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2003). *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Nygaard, L. (2015). *Writing for Scholars: A Practical Guide to Making Sense & Being Heard*. Sage

MAC4502

Period 2

30 Oct 2023

22 Dec 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

1.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T. Viola](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Primary and secondary sources, research question, Argumentation, Research proposal, Analytical Framework

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## The Politics of National Identity

### Full course description

The concept of national identity is both a characteristic and a contested element of modern (including contemporary) political culture. Expectations at the end of the twentieth century that processes of globalisation would soon end the political relevance of national identities turned out to be short-sighted. Indeed, the last twenty years have witnessed a strong rise in political discourse on national identity, especially by right wing politicians but also by left leaning politicians, and by mainstream and populist parties alike. The course has two main foci, one empirical, the other political-philosophical. First, it discusses the way national identities are constructed and kept alive through political discourse and the cultivation of instances, images and narratives of collective memory (and is thus a component of modern political culture). Secondly, it will address the political philosophy of national identity and make students reflect on recent contributions on the presumed uses and dangers of cultivating national identities for liberal democracies.

### Course objectives

This course aims to enable students to

## Master Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

1. critically evaluate the conceptions of national identity used in academia and politics
2. distinguish and discuss several ways in which national identities are constructed
3. critically evaluate the liberal nationalist argumentation in favour of national identities

### **Recommended reading**

Malešević, S. (2006). *Identity as Ideology. Understanding Ethnicity and Nationalism*. Houndsmill: Palgrave Macmillan.

Özkırımlı, U. (2005). *Contemporary debates on nationalism. A critical engagement*. Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Skey, M. & Antonsich, M. (Eds.) (2017) *Everyday Nationhood. Theorising Culture, Identity and Belonging after Banal Nationalism*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

MPC4002

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.P.M. Stoffers](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Nationalism, National Identity, identity politics, liberal nationalism

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## **"What If...?" Speculative Fiction in Search of More Just Futures**

### **Full course description**

To a certain extent, all literature and art is speculative in that they imagine possible worlds separate from the reality we live in. Speculative fiction – encompassing fantasy, science fiction, magic realism, horror, utopia and dystopia –, however, is the genre that does so quintessentially.

In this course, we will study the affordances of speculative fiction to critically reflect on the past and the present to give shape to futures that are more socially just. We focus largely (albeit not exclusively) on literary works, cinema, and television that engage with “what if...” questions about pressing societal transformations that relate to, for instance, reproductivity, care, global pandemics,

climate change, and decolonization.

In the tutorials and lectures, you will be introduced to the genre of speculative fiction and the ways in which its artistic form can be studied in connection to its ideological signification. Theoretical insights will be paired with critical readings of primary works in an archive of speculative fiction (mostly from the 21st century) that we develop together. Exploring this archive will result in two writing exercises: 1) a creative one (non-graded) in which you are invited to use your imagination to rewrite the ending of one of the primary texts under study, and 2) a professional review (graded) of contemporary work of speculative fiction (literature, film, or TV series) in which you will assess the alternative social and political aspirations articulated in it.

## Prerequisites

At the end of this course, you will

have learned what is characteristic of the genre of speculative fiction,

understand the relation between speculative fiction and social justice issues,

be able to develop appropriate theoretical and methodological approaches to interpret works of speculative fiction with a focus on social justice,

be able to critically assess a work of speculative fiction in the format of review for a professional audience.

## Recommended reading

Allan, K. (Ed.). (2013). *Disability in science fiction*. Palgrave.

Carrington, A. M. (2016). *Speculative blackness: The future of race in science fiction*. University of Minnesota Press.

Gill, R. B. (2013). The uses of genre and the classification of speculative fiction. *Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*, 46(2), 71-85.

Lothian, A. (2018). *Old futures: Speculative fiction and queer possibility*. New York University Press.

CLA4002

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A.M.C. Swinnen](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Work in subgroups



Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Speculative fiction, genre, futurity, social justice, queer, crip, decolonial

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## **Cultural Industries & Social Change 1**

### **Full course description**

The course explores the relationship between cultural industries and social change. In period 3, the elective focuses on giving students theories and background knowledge that will allow them to critically understand this relationship. We start with the definition of cultural industries as ‘those institutions (mainly profit-making, but also state ... and non-profit organisations) that are most directly involved in the production of social meaning’ (Hesmondhalgh 2007). As such, the cultural industries comprise not only culture in the narrower sense, such as the fine or visual arts, but also broadcasting, content-related aspects of the internet, music, fashion, lifestyle, and the list goes on. Via theories and examples, we further profile the cultural industries, explore their history, and critically discuss the role cultural industries play in society. We examine how the advent of neoliberalism and globalization have, throughout the past decades, changed the ways in which cultural industries organize themselves and contribute to the economy. What are the benefits and challenges of this re-organization? Which advantages and which challenges have emerged for different actors and social groups that either belong to or are affected by the cultural industries? To answer these and related questions, we focus in particular on questions of labor and inclusivity in the cultural industries; on the clustering of cultural industries in cities and regions (‘creative cities’); on the interplay between cultural policy and the cultural industries; and on issues of power, logistics and value creation on the global art markets.

### **Course objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

distinguish, compare and interrelate different concepts and theories of the cultural industries

understand and conceptualize how the cultural industries have been impacted by socio-economic, political, technological developments of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century

identify and historically contextualize contemporary challenges and trends in the contemporary cultural industries (socio-political, economic and environmental)

apply concepts and theories of the cultural industries to examples and case studies of their choice

analyze the cultural industries using a range of relevant theoretical approaches

## Recommended reading

Hesmondhalgh, D. (2007) *The Cultural Industries*. Sage.

McRobbie, A. (2018). *Be creative: Making a living in the new culture industries*. John Wiley & Sons.

Oakley, K. (2006). Include us out—economic development and social policy in the creative industries. *Cultural trends*, 15(4), 255-273.

Banks, M. (2018). Creative economies of tomorrow? Limits to growth and the uncertain future. *Cultural trends*, 27(5), 367-380.

AHE4028

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.M. Meissner](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Assignment

Keywords:

cultural industries, social transformation, creative cities, art markets, cultural policy, social justice, environmental sustainability, digitization

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Arts and Audiences 1

### Full course description

This course focuses on the relationship between arts and audiences. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach and builds on perspectives coming from academic fields such as (art) history, sociology, pedagogy, philosophy, and critical museology as well as professional practices such as education, policy, marketing and curatorship. It aims to show students the diverse ways in which art institutions relate to, interact with and impact audiences. The course is firmly grounded both in academic scholarly works and professional practices. Lectures will offer overviews on the topics at hand and present diverse positions and dominant theories in the field. Workshops will offer focused work on academic literature related to the topics as well as hands-on professional training and real site analysis (visitor research, space analysis, etc). Debates will train your critical thinking and introduce you to controversial topics in the field, allow you to form an opinion and defend it through structured argumentation.

In period 3 you will be introduced to key developments concerning the ever-changing relationship

## Master Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

between arts and their audiences. First you will study changing notions of 'visitors', 'audiences', 'users' and 'the public' looking at the historical and sociological context of the various definitions of the concepts and the implications of varying terminologies on academic and professional ways of studying audiences. You will study and critically question concepts such as 'audience engagement' and 'cultural participation' by drawing on literature from a range of fields. In your investigations, you will also consider the existence of a non-audience and why one would be interested to study non-participants.. You will debate around issues related to cultural participation, authority in the art institutions and agency in the museum. Building on such considerations, you will continue your investigations looking at questions related to recent developments and broader notions of audience engagement. You will investigate and debate topics such as inclusion, representation in the arts and multivocality in the museum. Following on the different forms of engagement, you will then consider the impact of space on audiences, including traditional white cubes, post-industrial and public spaces as well as digital spaces. Particular attention will be paid to multi-sensory exhibition strategies.

### Course objectives

At the end of this period students will be able to:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key theories, approaches, concepts and methodologies in Museum Studies, Audience research, curatorial Studies, and Cultural Education

Demonstrate advanced knowledge of and insight into important issues in the fields of audience research, education, curatorship

### Recommended reading

Duncan, C. (1995). 'From the princely gallery to the public Art Museum' *Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums*, London: Routledge, pp. 21-47.

Abt, J. (2011) *The Origins of the Public Museum*. In: Sharon Macdonald (ed.). *A Companion to Museum Studies*. Malden, USA; Oxford, UK; Victoria, Canada: Blackwell, pp. 115-134.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. (2000) *Changing Values in the Art Museum: rethinking communication and learning*, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 6:1, 9-31.

AHE4029

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.L. Sitzia](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Work in subgroups, Working visit(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

engaging audiences, participatory practices, innovation, audience research, cultural education, Curatorship

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Heritage and Society 1

### Full course description

This course addresses the question of how society deals with the past. In doing so, it draws from heritage studies, public history and archeology studies, memory studies and museum studies. The course discusses the transformation in heritage from an expert driven, nation-state and western oriented authorized heritage discourse to a more open, society oriented and therefore contested approach. Heritage is thus not understood primarily as a 'site' or 'object' but as a cultural process of meaning and memory making with tangible social and political consequences.

In Period 3, students get an overview of the main theoretical concepts and methodologies used in the various fields. They furthermore are introduced to the dominant stakeholders, actors and institutions operating in the heritage arena. In addition, they discuss the most influential policies on the local, national and international level that have shaped the way heritage is defined, identified, produced, valued, managed, conserved and perceived.

### Course objectives

At the end of the course, students are able to:

- discuss the most influential policies on the local, national and international level that have shaped the way heritage is defined, identified, produced, valued, managed, conserved and perceived;
- possess advanced knowledge of and insight into important issues and practices in the fields of memory, culture and heritage;
- use key theories, approaches, concepts and methodologies in Heritage Studies, Public History and Archeology Studies, Memory Studies and Museum Studies to discuss and understand key transformations in heritage and society;
- differentiate between the relevant stakeholders, actors and factors in memory and heritage practices.
- produce a concept map of the main notions discussed in the course.

### Prerequisites

None

### Recommended reading

Macdonald, S. (ed.) (2006). *A Companion to Museum Studies*. Malden, USA; Oxford, UK; Victoria, Canada: Blackwell.

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Merriman, N. (2004). *Public archaeology*. London and New York: Routledge.

Olick, J.K., Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. and Levy, D. (eds.) (2011). *The Collective Memory Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, L. (2006). *The Uses of Heritage*. London and New York: Routledge.

AHE4030

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A. Sierp](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

Collective memory, identity, heritage, cultural policies, commemoration, collecting and conservation

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Research and Writing III: Thesis Proposal Presentation

### Full course description

This skill training builds on Research and Writing I and II and aims at preparing students for the writing of their final thesis. During the first two sessions, students will revisit and reformulate their problem statements and research questions and further develop links to appropriate methods and theories. At the same time, they start working on a draft version of their research proposal for the thesis. In week 4, students present their work-in-progress and critically evaluate each other's research proposals. Feedback on the presentation should be used to finalize the thesis proposal which is due in the second week of Period 5. The thesis proposal will be assessed by the respective thesis supervisor (to be assigned by the thesis coordinator).

### Course objectives

At the end of the course, you are able to

formulate a research problem and question on the topic of your specialization;

devise a research strategy and choose appropriate methods and theories to fit with the research question;

approach and plan a thesis research project at MA level;

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present and write a complete research proposal for a MA level thesis project.

## Prerequisites

Research and Writing I & II

## Recommended reading

Nygaard, L. (2015). Writing for Scholars: A Practical Guide to Making Sense & Being Heard. Sage.

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2003). The Craft of Research. University of Chicago Press

MPC4503

Period 3

8 Jan 2024

2 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

1.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T. Viola](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation

Keywords:

research design, Thesis, presentation

## Semester 2

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## A Dark Century: Political Violence and its Legacies

### Full course description

War and mass violence have shaped the contours of society immensely. This holds true for modern and contemporary history, and will most likely continue to be the case in the future. While some have argued that, when seen from a long-term perspective, more recent history has witnessed a dramatic decline in human violence of any kind, a vast majority of scholars refute this perception and draw attention to the uninterrupted realities and to the new and multifaceted forms of mass violence. Its huge impact and long-term consequences cannot be denied, neither for the individual lives of millions, nor for societies as a whole. This course will examine the origins and nature of some pivotal examples of collective and political violence throughout recent history (20th-21st centuries), such as modern warfare, revolution, genocide, civil war, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, and state

## Master Modern Political Culture: Ideas and Discourses in Context

repression. But it will also take a step further by looking at the mechanisms of overcoming the legacies and effects of mass violence. Which measures have been taken to come to terms with the past and prepare societies for a new post-conflict arrangement? Societies have explored various tools and models to master violent pasts: by promoting forms of transitional justice, by civic education and public debate, through museums and monuments, by renegotiating heritage sites and landscapes, and by creating new political, social and legal frameworks. In exploring these questions, the course introduces students to the wider field of peace and conflict studies.

### Course objectives

This course aims to introduce students into the recent history and contemporary challenges of war, conflict and peace, as well as in efforts to reconstruct societies after traumatic experiences of mass violence.

### Recommended reading

Donald Bloxham and Robert Gerwarth, *Political Violence in the 20th Century Europe*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Paul Hollander, *Political Violence. Belief, Behaviour, and Legitimation*, Palgrave, 2008.

Julian Lindley-French and Yves Boyer (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of War*, Oxford University Press, 2012.

MPC4003

Period 4

5 Feb 2024

5 Apr 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.J.M. Verbeek](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL, Skills, Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Written exam

Keywords:

Mass violence in the 20th and 21st centuries, introduction into peace and conflict studies, transitional justice

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Time to Act: Cultural Interventions and Activism

## **Full course description**

This course provides students with the skills to self-reflexively put their critical understanding of art and literary interventions into practice. To that end, the course is focused on a group project in collaboration with societal partners. Structured in the format of a portfolio, this project mobilizes research, analysis, and communication to (co-)design, (co-)facilitate, and/or comment on a cultural intervention regarding an issue of social justice. This can be in the format of a creative workshop, a podcast, a video, an exhibition, a handbook, a toolkit, a reading group, a social media campaign, et cetera. To prepare for the project, students will explore concepts and case studies that address how literary and artistic practices activate new socio-political imaginaries, and how they transform contemporary modes of struggle for social justice. Students will elaborate on concepts such as activism (art activism), emotion work, counterpublics, postcritique, queer and decolonial performance, prefiguration, and radical care, among others. Case studies change from year to year, depending on topical issues. Examples range from the adaptation of science-fiction theory in anti-racist organizing, to participatory arts in residential dementia care, from environmental activism to the anti-colonial appropriation of urban monuments, from anti-capitalist interventions to punk-feminist craftivism, et cetera. Drawing on these studies and on their liaison with societal partners, students will – in the second half of this course – finalize their group projects, and critically reflect on this process via an individually written commentary. The course prepares students for their future work and public engagement in the social and creative sectors, organizing and campaigning, as well as public outreach, journalism, and critique.

## **Course objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students are able to:

understand and distinguish between current interdisciplinary theories and concepts of cultural intervention and activism;

apply concepts and theories of cultural intervention and activism to (self-)selected artistic and literary case studies;

select and integrate qualitative and empirical research methods in a collaborative and goal-oriented manner;

identify and take part in topical academic and societal debates on strategies and best practices in art and literary interventions/activism;

develop an informed and critical perspective on contemporary examples of artistic and literary interventions/activism;

translate their informed understanding of artistic and literary interventions into a research- and creativity-led intervention in relation to contemporary issues of social justice;

critically reflect on their own cultural intervention and that of others, including questions of agency, inclusiveness and positionality vis-à-vis different local and global contexts, publics, and scales.

## **Recommended reading**

Shiner, L. (2001) *The invention of art: A cultural history*. The University of Chicago Press.



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Serafini, P. (2018). *Performance action: The politics of art activism*. Routledge.

Staal, J. (2019). *Propaganda art in the 21st century*. The MIT Press.

Garrido Castellano, C. (2021). *Art activism for an anticolonial future*. SUNY Press.

Engler, M., & Engler, P. (2016). *This is an uprising: How nonviolent revolt is shaping the twenty-first century*. Bold Type Books.

CLA4003

Period 4

5 Feb 2024

5 Apr 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.M. Meissner](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), Presentation(s), Project-Centered Learning

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Portfolio

Keywords:

Contemporary literature, contemporary arts, activism (art activism), social movement studies, cultural politics, performance, social justice, environmental sustainability

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Internship

### Full course description

When you choose to conduct an academic internship, you are advised to link this to your thesis. Using the internship work in your thesis can take different forms. One of the options is a research internship. In that case you will carry out a research project as your internship task, the results of which you can use to (partly) answer the research question of your thesis. Another option is that the internship organization will function as a case study in your thesis research. This requires that the internship will give you the opportunity to make an in-depth study of the functioning of (part of) the internship organization. This requires access to documents, meetings and the possibility to interview key figures in the organization. It is also possible that you test out a theory in practice during your internship, for example by designing and carrying out certain programmes or projects and testing the results.

MAC4992

Period 4

5 Feb 2024

5 Apr 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

11.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Ernsten](#)

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Research and Writing IV: Thesis Proposal

### Full course description

This two-week course is focused on rewriting and finalizing the thesis proposal and responding to the feedback by the thesis supervisor. There are no tutorial sessions.

### Course objectives

At the end of the course, you are able to

respond to feedback by thesis supervisor;

respond to peer feedback;

rewrite and finalize a complete thesis proposal at MA level.

### Prerequisites

Research and Writing I & II & III

### Recommended reading

Nygaard, L. (2015). Writing for Scholars: A Practical Guide to Making Sense & Being Heard. Sage.

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., & Williams, J. M. (2003). The Craft of Research. University of Chicago Press

MPC4504

Period 4

5 Feb 2024

16 Feb 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

1.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T. Viola](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s)

Keywords:

research, Thesis

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Thesis

### Full course description

A Master thesis should consist of a well-argued research paper that presents the findings of an independent methodical scholarly enquiry. It should demonstrate that students are able to:

devise and conduct research of a limited size with the use of methods and techniques relevant to the discipline or domain of the research question;

formulate a clear and feasible research question;

collect and use in a meaningful way the sources and literature that are required to answer the research question;

analyse relevant research data and and develop a coherent argumentation write academically;

use the results to articulate a well-rounded and convincing conclusion.

Students write a thesis of 15.000 to 18.000 words.

MAC4800

Period 5

8 Apr 2024

21 Jun 2024

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

18.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Ernten](#)

Teaching methods:

Research

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Keywords:

research