

## **Periodisk evaluering av emner for KUN 1003, Høst 2019/Periodic Course Evaluation for KUN 1003, Autumn 2019**

*Introduksjon til visuelle studier /Introduction to Visual Studies*

Emneansvarlig/Course Coordinator: Professor Aron Vinegar

Undervisere/Instructors:: Professor Aron Vinegar and Professor Pasi Väliäho

### Emnetbeskrivelse

Dette emnet gir en introduksjon til visuelle studier som er en nyere disiplin innenfor kunsthistoriefaget, men som ikke begrenser seg til kunstverk som studieobjekt. Visuelle studier ser på et mangfold av visuelle artefakter, fra for eksempel populære bildefremstillinger og vitenskapelige visualiseringer til alle former for kulturelt konstruerte sosiale rom. Emnet gir ikke en historisk oversikt, men tar for seg sentrale aspekter og spørsmål knyttet til visuell kultur, både i fortiden og i nåtiden. Emnet vil derfor være relevant for en rekke fagområder, blant annet teknologihistorie, mediastudier, antropologi og litteratur.

### Course Description

The course aims to introduce students to a new area of study called Visual Studies. Whilst stemming from the discipline of art history, it is not confined within the realm of art only. It takes a more comprehensive look at visual artefacts of all sorts, from popular imagery and scientific visualizations to the built environment, among other things. This course is not a historical overview but rather explores key moments and issues in visual culture both past and present

### Undervisning

Undervisningen består av forelesning og seminarer. Det gis 12 dobbelttimer forelesning og to dobbelttimer seminar i løpet av semesteret. Det er forventet at du møter forberedt og deltar aktivt i undervisningen.

### Teaching

The course is primarily conducted as lectures and seminars. There will be a two-hour lecture once per week over 12 weeks and three two-hour seminars during the course. Students are expected to come prepared and actively participate in the lectures/seminars.

### Eksamen

Eksamen på KUN1003 er en tre dagers digital hjemmeeksamen

### Exam

The exam consists of a three-day digital take home exam.

### Summary and Evaluation/Sammendrag og Evaluering

The course aims to introduce students to the field of Visual Studies, and to develop students' awareness of and criticality in this field of studies. It is also the foundation course for more advanced courses in Visual Studies offered by faculty in Art History and Visual Studies. The

class is divided into three broad topics with three classes devoted to each topic: Animation, Framing and Identity. Each of the two faculty members teaching the course this year offered one lecture in each section in order to provide different perspectives on each topic. Because of an unexpected illness, which reduced our instructors from three to two, the third lecture in each section consisted of a self-guided reading based on the pensum list. Both instructors participated in two of the seminars, and Professor Vinegar conducted the third one on his own. The seminars are meant to consolidate the students learning and to help them think critically by extending their learning by applying their knowledge to new examples not covered in lecture classes. Assigned readings for each lecture are posted on Canvas and visual materials are discussed in lectures and seminars.

From the student evaluations of the course, I am confident that the learning outcomes provided in the course descriptions provide a good description of what the students should be able to derive from the course after its completion:

- vise kjennskap til skjæringspunkter mellom visualitet og bilder og deres komplekse historie
- arbeide tverrfaglig på konkrete og kreative måter
- identifisere og presentere de viktigste teoretiske og kritiske standpunkter innenfor fagområdet visuelle studier
- definere nøkkelbegrep fra emnets pensumlitteratur
- analysere visuelle former ved bruk av begreper fra emnets pensumlitteratur
- presentere dine idéer på en klar og overbevisende måte

This is the second time we have taught this course, and it was developed by us to be the “core” course in Visual Studies for our section that was recently renamed “Art History and Visual Studies.” Thus, KUN1003 reflects the new component of Visual Studies in our curriculum. The class was successful in its second iteration, as is indicated by the positive Student Evaluations and conversations with students in seminars and after lectures. On this basis, we believe the course description for this course works very well. Most of the student evaluations for the course indicated that they were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the course overall, while a few stated they were “moderately satisfied.” We believe this is an excellent result for a team-taught course taught to a fairly large group of students. It appears that 73 students registered for the class before September and 51 students actually started the course. In total 45 students completed the exam and the grades were predominantly distributed within the C range, with a fair number of A, B, and D grades. Most of the students enrolled in the course were undergraduate students from Art History and Visual Studies. There were no registered complaints.

We learned a lot from teaching the course the first time in Fall 2018, and we incorporated some of the feedback we received from the students when we conducted the midway evaluations last year. As we wrote in the first periodic evaluation: “We think it is important to have four seminars instead of two, so we can devote one seminar to each section. Students really benefited from these seminars, and it consolidated their learning for each section, and helped them prepare for the final exam.” This year we made sure to devote one seminar to

each section of the course. We had to reduce the course to three sections from four sections due a lecturer's illness, but we were able to conduct three seminars that corresponded to the course's three sections. We also decided to continue to post web/podcasts of all our lectures in order to facilitate students' ability to engage with the course and study for exams. Looking forward to Fall 2020, we might require the citation of a minimum number of articles from the Pensum in each required essay for the final exam.