



Research Master Humanities, Program Critical Studies in Art and Culture
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen - M Humanities (research) - 2017-2018

The Research Master's programme Critical Studies in Art and Culture (formerly known as VAMA), specialization of the Humanities Research Master, focuses on the study of current developments in visual arts, architecture, design and media, from a theoretical and historical perspective. In a globalizing cultural world in which art, architecture, design and media are ever more closely integrated and packaged as "creative industries," disciplinary boundaries need questioning and challenging, yet a thorough grounding in older and newer disciplines such as art history, architectural history, design culture, and media studies is a prerequisite for doing so.

In your studies, you will focus on the analysis of "visual objects": of artifacts in various media that function (primarily or in part) as images. This ranges from landscapes, cities and buildings to artworks in various media, as well as film, television, design and games. Notions such as inter-, cross- and transmediality play an important part in the program. Since artifacts, media and forms of intermediality can only exist in specific social, institutional, economical and ideological frameworks and networks, Critical Studies in Art and Culture will equip you with the analytical and critical tools for analyzing these. Each of the four main disciplines that inform the specialization brings specific theories and methods to the table, and the programme seeks to foster a sense of their interconnectedness, highlighting their specific potential as well as possible limitations.

If you are interested in pursuing a PhD after your MA, but also if you generally cherish critical attitude and original lines of questioning based on a profound knowledge of your research subject, and wish to develop your research skills, this programme will be a perfect choice.

The study programme of 120 ECTS (60 ECTS per year) consists of mandatory and elective parts.

The mandatory package consists of

a) Two core courses of 2 x 9 ECTS (=18 ECTS):

Imagining the Image

In this course various theoretical and methodological approaches to the image are traced in close connection with historical and contemporary developments in visual culture. Key texts by modern and contemporary authors on visual culture are critically read and discussed, and applied to cases that are relevant to the students' budding research agendas. The choice of literature and theoretical focus, meanwhile, is set by the teacher on the basis of his or her current research interests.

Critical Issues in the Cultural Industries

This course focuses on the role and influence of present-day popular culture, or what in the mid-20th century the philosophers Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer referred to as the 'culture industry'. At the dawn of the 21st century, does the culture of the masses still present a threat to High Art, as Adorno and Horkheimer then feared? Or can we redefine the role of the arts and media in this age of globalization and commercialization in a more nuanced fashion? Since this course is taught by different professors, the issues addressed alternate along with the teacher. Currently the focus lies on issues of space, place, and mobility in different cultural practices. Along with the increasing mobility of goods, money, and people and the interconnectedness of cultures through digital media – known as globalization – issues of space and place have been back on the agenda in various disciplines and cultural practices

b) Three Humanities core modules of 3 x 6 ECTS (=18 ECTS)

Humanities in Society

Humanities Research Career Preparation

Digital Humanities & Environmental Humanities module

c) Two research seminars of 2 x 9 ECTS (=18 ECTS) (Students choose two out of four seminars)

Reading Concepts of Intermediality

Methods of Design Analysis

Seminar Architecture (annually changing topic on the basis of staff members' research)

Seminar Visual Art (annually changing topic on the basis of staff members' research)

Within the research programme, a total of 42 ECTS can be attributed to courses, electives, research seminars and tutorials of your choice (10 ECTS have to be followed with the national research schools). These courses are subject to the programme coordinator's approval, but allow you to co-build your own curriculum and to pursue research projects within one (or several) of the research areas of faculty members. These areas include:

Intermediality, new media, media theory, and (post-)digital art

Contemporary architecture and urbanism in relation to mobility and globalization

Contemporary art, between criticality and creative industries

Design theory and criticism

The Master's thesis (30 ECTS) that concludes the programme is a substantial study based on independent academic research, in relation to topical research areas and projects of staff members.

[Programme overview](#)

[Teaching and Examination Regulations \(in Dutch\) on VUnet \(inlog\)](#)

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Research Master Humanities, Program Critical Studies in Art and Culture, Electives and/or Tutorial

Choose:

- a master excursion or an elective in year 1, period 5+6 (6 ec)
- electives and tutorials in year 1 (15 ec)
- electives and tutorials in year 2 (15 ec)

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students	Periode 2	3.0	L_ETMAALG002
Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students	Periode 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG001
Architectural and Town Planning Heritage	Periode 1	6.0	L_KBMAERF004
Architectuurkritiek	Periode 4	6.0	L_KBMAKGS011
Art Criticism	Periode 4+5	6.0	L_KNMAKGS010
English Text Editing MA	Periode 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG004
Kunst, Markt en Connaisseurschap I: Geschiedenis van de Kunstmarkt en Connaisseurschap	Periode 2+3	6.0	L_KAMAKGS020
Master Tutorial Games Theory and Analysis	Ac. Jaar (september)	6.0	L_ZAMAKCW002
Media Art History: The Digital Divide	Periode 2+3	6.0	L_KAMAKGS028
Methods and Theories of Art History	Periode 1	6.0	L_KAMAKGS403
Research Master Seminar Sound Heritage	Periode 4	9.0	L_KBMPHUA001
Study Trip	Periode 4	6.0	L_KAMAKGS029
Trending Topics Arts and Culture	Periode 1+2+3+4+5	3.0	L_KAMAKGS025
Visual Arts, Media and Architecture Tutorial 1	Ac. Jaar (september)	12.0	L_AAMPVAM001
Visual Arts, Media and Architecture Tutorial 2	Ac. Jaar (september)	12.0	L_AAMPVAM002

Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students

Vakcode	L_ETMAALG002 ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	3.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Coördinator	A.J. Gambrel
Examinator	A.J. Gambrel
Docent(en)	A.J. Gambrel
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

After successfully completing this course you will be able to write an academic text in English at the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference [CEFR] both in terms of relevant communicative competence and grammatical accuracy and vocabulary control; you will be able to spot the major coherence problems in the drafts of your own and other people's texts, and edit the text to improve coherence; you will also have a clear sense of where your English is strong and of what areas you can work on to develop your expressive potential.

Inhoud vak

This course focuses on resolving linguistic issues that individual students still have in their English, and on further refining (academic) style and textual coherence. On the one hand the idea is to resolve issues that participants still have with their English, and on the other hand it is about learning to use structures that can make one's writing more 'interesting'.

Onderwijsvorm

2 seminars of 2 hrs each week; one week of individual appointments.

Toetsvorm

Takehome editing assignments (50%); edited versions of a text you've written before this course (50%); an analysis of and report on the weak areas in one's own English (required, no grade).

Literatuur

Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). Effective Writing in English. 2nd edition. Bussum: Coutinho. There will also be separate materials posted on Canvas.

Vereiste voorkennis

This course is only open to master students who already have experience in writing academic texts in English.

Doelgroep

Master and research master students who are relatively experienced writers and who wish to further develop the quality of their written academic English.

Overige informatie

The course has an 80% obligatory attendance.

Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students

Vakcode	L_ETMAALG001 ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels

Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Examinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Docent(en)	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

After successfully completing this course you will be able to write a well-structured English text in a formal style about a subject related to your own study, free of serious lexical and grammatical errors which would have an adverse effect on the readability of the text. In terms of the Common European Framework of Reference you will have achieved at least level B2 for linguistic accuracy and B2/C1 for relevant communicative competence.

Inhoud vak

This course involves (a) a practical introduction to basic aspects of the grammar of contemporary English, focusing on the problems that students typically have when writing formal English, (b) a remedial treatment of the macrostructures of academic texts in different disciplines, and (c) help in getting to grips with the basic problems involved in writing good, formal English (e.g. differences between English and other languages, the essentials of English punctuation, formal style).

Onderwijsvorm

2 hrs lecture per week; 2 hrs seminar per week

Toetsvorm

Early diagnostic writing assignment during the course; final online grammar test plus academic paper of 2000 words. The final mark is based on the grammar test and the academic paper, both of which need to have a pass mark.

Literatuur

Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). *Effective Writing in English*. 2nd edition. Bussum: Coutinho.

Foley, M. & D. Hall (2003). *Longman Advanced Learners' Grammar: A self study & practice book with answers*. Longman/Pearson.

Vereiste voorkennis

Registration as a master student.

Doelgroep

For Dutch and international students who feel insecure about their English.

Overige informatie

The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two weeks you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Architectural and Town Planning Heritage

Vakcode	L_KBMAERF004 ()
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Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. E.M. van Hellemond
Examinator	dr. L.R. Egberts
Docent(en)	dr. F.H. Schmidt, dr. E.M. van Hellemond, dr. L.R. Egberts
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Excursie
Niveau	400

Doel vak

After following this course, the aim is that you as a student:

- a) Understand the historiography and interdisciplinarity of the heritage concept in relationship to the built and urban environment;
- b) Are able to apply these understandings to a self-chosen, contemporary restoration or re-use case study;
- c) Can critically assess various approaches to material aspects of heritage, in such a way that you are able to produce arguments for and against contemporary interventions in heritage environments;
- d) Become aware of your own role as a heritage academic to debates in society, in such a way that you are able to contribute critically and constructively to events and debates
- e) Be able to present and exchange ideas with your fellow students with other disciplinary backgrounds on restoration and re-use cases;
- f) Become more self-directed in your approach to your studies, in such a way that you are aware of your specific interests and motivated to let these guide you through this master course.

Inhoud vak

Architectural and Town Planning Heritage is one of the introductory courses of the Master Heritage Studies. It is meant as a course in which the central concepts of the master course, such as heritage, monument, identity, spatial transformations and identity come together. As the group of students is as interdisciplinary as our academic field, we will analyze and discuss these concepts based on literature that reflects shifts of thought in the field. We will also question and apply them in lectures and individual presentations. In order to get acquainted with the heritage world outside the university's compound, we will make excursions and welcome guest speakers and you will individually visit heritage events and report about them. A final written exam will wrap up the course's learning and challenge you to critically assess the understandings and insights you have acquired.

Onderwijsvorm

seminars and excursions

Toetsvorm

Heritage event visit 10%
Excursions: preparation and participation 10%
Presentation 30%
Take-home exam 50%

Literatuur

To be announced on Canvas.

Doelgroep

Master students Heritage Studies (compulsory), master students Architectural History (optional).

Architectuurkritiek

Vakcode	L_KBMAKGS011 ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. E.M. van Hellemond
Examinator	dr. E.M. van Hellemond
Docent(en)	dr. E.M. van Hellemond
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Inhoud vak

This course aims at developing both writing skills and a critical stance on the field of architecture, providing students with the practical and methodological tools they need to evaluate our built environment.

Through close-reading the work of renowned architecture critics, as well as reviewing new building projects, exhibitions and each other's work, students will train themselves as professional architecture critics.

Your reviews are possibly published in online architecture media.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminars; excursions.

Art Criticism

Vakcode	L_KNMAKGS010 ()
Periode	Periode 4+5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Examinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Docent(en)	dr. S. Lutticken
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Learning to reflect critically on contemporary art and culture by writing reviews of current exhibitions; analysing art in well-written and well-structured critical texts.

Inhoud vak

The students write five reviews that will be discussed in class. As the aim is to write well-argued reviews of contemporary art exhibitions, the

discussions will focus on form as well as on content; on the craft of writing as well as on the cogency of the observations and value judgements in these texts. Additionally, there are a few sessions on the history and current state of art criticism. The focus is on visual art, but contemporary visual art is inter- or postmedial in nature, which means that art criticism too cannot be content with conventional definitions of what constitutes visual art.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar

Toetsvorm

Assessment on the basis of the written reviews and participation in class.

Literatuur

T.b.c.

Vereiste voorkennis

BA art history or equivalent

Doelgroep

MA students art history, CAMS, VAMA, MA Museumconservator, Design Cultures

Core Module Critical Issues in the Cultural Industries

Vakcode	L_KAMPVAM002 ()
Periode	Periode 4+5
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. G.E.E. Verstraete
Examinator	prof. dr. G.E.E. Verstraete
Docent(en)	prof. dr. G.E.E. Verstraete
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

acquaintance with debates on space and place in a selection of texts and ability to apply this to research topic of one's own

Inhoud vak

Along with the increasing mobility of goods, money, and people and the interconnectedness of cultures through digital media – known as globalization – issues of space and place have been back on the agenda in various disciplines and cultural practices. As if the so-called placelessness that comes with globalization has called forth a renewed attention to what gets lost. This does not mean that place and space in those discussions and practices simply refer back to rootedness, as opposed to movement. Rather, spatiality often gets redefined in relation to the physical and virtual mobilities through which it is reshaped. Interestingly, addressing such new questions about space & place in the arts, design and media also has far-reaching effects for ourselves since it enables us to take the objects of our research beyond their presumed

autonomy – beyond the screen or frame so to speak – and into the streets.

Onderwijsvorm

seminar including presentations and online discussions

Toetsvorm

final evaluation based on participation, presentation, essay

Literatuur

TBA

Vereiste voorkennis

Admission to research Master VAMA

Doelgroep

Research MA students of VAMA

Core Module Imagining the Image

Vakcode	L_KAMPVAM003 ()
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Examinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Docent(en)	dr. S. Lutticken
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

The comparative analysis and active use of relevant theories of the image in art history, comparative arts and media studies and the history of architecture

Inhoud vak

This course examines different conceptualizations of the image in the context of historical transformations of the arts. This year, we will focus on the project "Talking Back to the Media," which was organized in 1985 by a number of Amsterdam-based artists and institutions. Through a combination of archival research and contextual theoretical reading, we will analyse the way(s) in which TBTTM articulated critical strategies towards and in the mass media, with a specific focus on the status and role of the image.

Onderwijsvorm

Lecture and seminar. The focus is on active participation and the ability to articulate and discuss one's analysis.

Toetsvorm

Students write an essay that counts for 60% of the final grade; presentations during class and participation in the discussions make up the remaining 40%

Literatuur

To be announced

Vereiste voorkennis

Admission to Research Master VAMA (Visual Arts, Media and Architecture)

Doelgroep

Students VAMA Resesarch Master (Visual Arts, Media and Architecture),
MPhil

Overige informatie

This course alternates on a yearly basis with the other Research master core-module 'Critical Issues in the Cultural Industries'. The course will not be taught in 2017-18.

Digital and Environmental Humanities

Vakcode	L_AAMPALG007 ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. I.B. Leemans
Examinator	prof. dr. I.B. Leemans
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam, dr. S.J. Kluiving, dr. K. Steenbergh, dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen, dr. C.M. van den Akker, prof. dr. I.B. Leemans, prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

This course offers an introduction for all Humanities Research Master students into the present state of Humanities research, specifically to the VU research environment, and the cross cutting themes Digital Humanities and Environmental Humanities, as examples of relatively new, dynamic interdisciplinary research fields. Introduction to these fields will provide insight as tot how humanities research can connect to other sciences and how can we connect Humanities research with societal challenges.

Inhoud vak

After a general introduction into Humanities research and the VU interdisciplinary research institutes, students choose for either Digital Humanities or Environmental Humanities.

Enviromental Humanities

This part of the course introduces you to a relatively new and flourishing field: the environmental humanities. When you think about pollution, animals rights or climate change, you may not immediately realize the relevance of the humanities for these issues. The question how we imagine our relation to nature, however, is just as essential as measuring CO2 emissions. Our imagination of the relationship between humans and environment has a direct impact on our interactions with planet earth.

We focus on the perception of the relationship between humans and the

environment from a mix of disciplinary perspectives. We do so by exploring four interdisciplinary themes: agency, sources, time scales, and cognition. For the theme sources, we investigate how the choice of certain types of sources influences the perspective on the environment, and how sources affect visions about the present and the future, for instance in city planning. For the theme agency we examine the question whether literary texts can “speak for nature.” For the theme time scales we study time scales that inform human conceptions of the environment as well as research in the environmental humanities. For the theme cognition, we explore the relation between human cognition, literature, history, and our perceptions of the environment.

Digital Humanities

In our globalizing and increasingly digital world of big data, there is a growing need for scholars who are trained in comparing complex and long term sets of quantitative and qualitative data. The sources and objects studied in history, media, literature, and linguistics are also increasingly becoming available digitally.

What is Digital Humanities and what is the history of this field of research? What are the main debates, the most dominant subfields and techniques used? In this part of the course we will introduce this cross-disciplinary research field, by exploring subfields e.g. Digital Hermeneutics, Geographical Information Systems, Text and Sentiment Analysis, and Visualisations. Students will be introduced to data collections and computational tools and methods used in the field, and try out some techniques. Students write a reflective paper, partly based on a digital micro project.

In a final session, both groups will join again to communicate their findings.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminars

Toetsvorm

Class participation, oral and written assignments (30%); final paper (70%).

Literatuur

Provided through Canvas.

Vereiste voorkennis

BA in a Humanities programme

Doelgroep

Students admitted to the Research Master Programmes of the VU Faculty of Humanities

English Text Editing MA

Vakcode	L_ETMAALG004 ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Coördinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Examinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Docent(en)	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

- The course has a vocational value. Many translators also do editing work. But it can also be very valuable for refining your own writing skills, as editing is really part of writing.
- The course develops specific skills, in particular relating to reading, error spotting and formulation.
- From a theoretical point of view the course aims (a) to further develop your insights into the relationship between cohesion and coherence; (b) to introduce you to the problems concerned in explaining the source of error: many problems in second language writing may be put down to interference from the first language, but problems also have other sources; (c) to problematize the notion of error.

Inhoud vak

- You first get an overview of what editing involves, plus a number of diagnostic exercises. You will get the opportunity to do the same exercises again at a later stage in the course.
- We then go on to look at matters concerning correctness at the level of the word, phrase and clause. This is called category 1 editing. There is a strong check function to this part: you should be already be reasonably comfortable with spotting, explaining and correcting the most frequent errors relating to spelling, punctuation, lexical choice, lexical grammar and clause grammar.
- Then you get an overview of category 2 editing, which involves message management. Special attention is paid to the categories of ordering, linking, coordinating and sentencing.
- There are exercises throughout, starting with material where you have to spot just one error in a sentence and then becoming more and more complex. Over the last two weeks of the course you will be dealing with text segments where anything at all may be wrong.
- There will be special treatment of alleged cultural differences between writing in Dutch and English.

Onderwijsvorm

4 hrs per week

Toetsvorm

A dossier of editing assignments (70% of the mark) plus a position paper on the practice of professional editing (30% of the mark).

Literatuur

A reading list will be placed on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

This course is open to master students who have a strong BA background in English language.

Doelgroep

Master students who wish to develop basic editing skills and refine their own writing process.

Overige informatie

The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two sessions you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Humanities in Society

Vakcode	L_AAMPALG005 ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam
Examinator	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam, dr. T. Krennmayr
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Learning to position the field of Humanities in society and to position your discipline in the Humanities; composing a research proposal; presenting this in a convincing, well-argued manner for an educated, partly non-specialist audience, both orally and in writing; learning 'interdisciplinary communication,' in particular also using visual tools to present your research.

Inhoud vak

The course comprises plenary discussions on the basis of literature on the role of humanities and other topics; individual and group assignments for presentations on the perspectives of digital humanities and other topics; an excursion to important Dutch Institutes in the Humanities field; discussions in groups on research proposals written and presented by the students; written reports on attended Graduate School Events

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar and Excursion.

Toetsvorm

Research proposal (written version) 60 %; other assignments 40 %.

Literatuur

Provided by the lecturers.

Doelgroep

The course is compulsory for all research master students.

Kunst, Markt en Connaisseurschap I: Geschiedenis van de Kunstmarkt en Connaisseurschap

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS020 ()
Periode	Periode 2+3
Credits	6.0

Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. D. Meuwissen
Examinator	dr. D. Meuwissen
Docent(en)	dr. J.P. ten Berge, dr. I.R. Vermeulen, dr. D. Meuwissen
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Verwerven van inzicht in de geschiedenis en het functioneren van de kunstmarkt voor beeldende kunst, vanaf de vroegmoderne tijd tot heden. Kennis maken met de rol die de kunsthandel speelt en heeft gespeeld als bemiddelaar tussen kunstenaar en publiek, en met de impact die de markt heeft op de productie van kunst, het kwaliteitsoordeel en op de kunstgeschiedenis.

Inhoud vak

In deze cursus, gegeven door eigen docenten en specialisten van buiten de VU, komen diverse aspecten van de kunstmarkt aan de orde, zoals de geschiedenis en het functioneren van de kunstmarkt (kunsthandel, galeriewezens, kunstbeurzen, veilinghuizen); de distributie van kunst; de impact van de markt op de kunstproductie; de invloed van internet en globalisering; musea en de markt; de totstandkoming van prijzen; nieuwe markten als China, India; etc. Bij de referaatopdracht gaat het om thema's gerelateerd aan de geschiedenis van de kunstmarkt, alsmede om case studies over de 'markt-geschiedenis' van individuele kunstenaars.

Onderwijsvorm

De module bestaat uit hoor- en responsiecolleges, schriftelijke opdrachten en referaten, aangevuld met enkele bezoeken aan veilinghuizen, een kunstbeurs en enkele kunsthandels.

Toetsvorm

Verplichte aanwezigheid en actieve deelname, literatuurtentamen (60 procent), referaat en schriftelijke opdrachten (samen 40 procent).

Literatuur

De verplichte tentamenliteratuur wordt aan het begin van de cursus bekend gemaakt, maar bestaat in elk geval uit:

F. Vermeulen, 'The Commercialization of Art: Painting and Sculpture in Sixteenth-Century Antwerp', in: M. Ainsworth (ed.), *Early Netherlandish Painting at the Crossroads. A Critical Look at Current Methods*, New York 2001, pp. 46-61.

Eric Jan Sluijter, 'Determining Value on the Art Market in the Golden Age: An Introduction', in: Anna Tummers en Koenraad Jonckheere (red), *Art Market and Connoisseurship. A Closer Look at Paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and their Contemporaries*, Amsterdam 2008, pp. 7-29.

Chris Stolwijk, 'De groote middelaar tusschen den artist en de verzamelaar: kunsthandelaren in Amsterdam en Den Haag in de tweede helft van de negentiende eeuw', *Uit de schilderswereld. Nederlandse kunstschilders in de tweede helft van de negentiende eeuw*, Leiden 1998, pp. 187-249.

Olav Velthuis, *Imaginaire economie: hedendaagse kunstenaars en de wereld van het grote geld*, Rotterdam 2005, 143 pp.

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelor Kunstgeschiedenis of MKDA met als specialisatie Kunst

Doelgroep

Master studenten Kunst- en cultuurwetenschappen, afstudeerrichting Kunstgeschiedenis.

Master Tutorial Games Theory and Analysis

Vakcode	L_ZAMAKCW002 ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. J.I.L. Veugen
Examinator	dr. J.I.L. Veugen
Niveau	400

Doel vak

In this tutorial the student will gain knowledge and insight in historical, theoretical and practical aspects of computer and video games in general and in story-structured computer and video games in particular, from a research point-of-view. (S)he will also gain knowledge and insight in the differences that exist between story-structured computer and video games and other narrative media, in particular film. This knowledge will enable the student to compare narrative computer games with other narrative media. After the course the student will be able to analyse computer games on aspects of genre, character, space, time and sound. The student will also gain knowledge and insight into the most important issues in game research and will be able to assess these issues critically from a research point of view. Having completed the tutorial successfully the student is able to initiate and complete their own research into narrative computer games.

Inhoud vak

Computer and videogames have become both a common as well as popular medium in today's society. Despite the fact that games are a relatively young medium, games have been studied from a humanities perspective almost as long as narrative computer games have been around. In this tutorial, the student will use theory and practical assignments to study narrative elements of computer and video games. The knowledge of narrative, or story-structured games, is necessary both to get a better understanding of the medium of the computer game itself, as well as to better understand how the medium differs from other narrative media such as books and film. In addition, as media texts are used less and less as individual entities but increasingly function in convergence with other media texts e.g. ASSASSIN'S CREED (2007 – present), which not only consists of several game texts but also includes books, comics, graphic novels, and (animated) films, a better understanding of computer games in relation to other media texts is indispensable in our present-day media landscape. Although the course focuses on theoretical and analytical aspects of computer games from an international research perspective, questions relating to production, design, distribution and reception are inherently linked to the study of computer and videogames

and will therefore be addressed as well. Although the overall course focuses on narrative computer games as entertainment, the knowledge gained is also necessary to look at games from other humanities' perspectives such as art, heritage studies and/or history or to study games in a different context such as education or cultural history.

Onderwijsvorm

For individual students or small groups self-study with assignments. Students taking this tutorial in period 5 can also follow (response) lectures, seminars and practical classes.

Toetsvorm

Weekly theoretical assignments and practical assignments (self-assessed), research assignment (paper). The research paper may be a preliminary research for your master thesis. You should hand in the weekly assignments on time. If you are late, this will be reflected in your final grade.

Literatuur

- Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen, et. al. Understanding Video Games: The Essential Introduction 2nd edition (2013) or 3rd edition (2016)
- Veugen, Connie, Computer Games as a Narrative Medium. Amsterdam (Doctoral Dissertation) 2011. Online available at www.veugen.net/
- Stockburger, A., The Rendered Arena: Modalities of space in video and computer games. London: Unpublished doctoral thesis available at <http://www.stockburger.co.uk/research/abstract.html>
- other texts and specifics see studyguide.
- game: GABRIEL KNIGHT SINS OF THE FATHER 20th Century Anniversary Edition (2014)

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Knowledge of film theory and analysis is advisable.

Doelgroep

MA students in the Humanities whose (research) thesis necessitates formal knowledge of computer games are strongly advised to take this course; students with a personal or (future) professional interest in computer games can take the course as well.

Overige informatie

This elective can be taken in period 2 or period 5. Students who took the BA MKDA: Media or have taken a course on game analysis are exempt from making the assignments.

Media Art History: The Digital Divide

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS028 ()
Periode	Periode 2+3
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Examinator	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Docent(en)	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege

Niveau	400
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Inhoud vak

This course is dedicated to artistic projects actively implementing or reflecting upon digital media. We will review the history of 'new media art' from cybernetic artworks of the 1950s to current practices of 'post-digital' or 'post-internet' art. We will question in how far it is helpful to at all distinguish forms of new media art from the general field of contemporary art (addressed by Claire Bishop's essay on the 'Digital Divide') and in how far different methods and theories are needed to study such art forms.

Onderwijsvorm

seminar

Toetsvorm

written paper and oral presentation

Literatuur

to be provided via canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

BA in Art History, Media Studies, MKDA, or comparable

Doelgroep

students of the MA programmes in Art & Culture, especially Contemporary Art History

Methods and Theories of Art History

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS403 ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. J.P. ten Berge
Examinator	dr. J.P. ten Berge
Docent(en)	dr. J.P. ten Berge, dr. S. Lutticken, prof. dr. K. Kwastek, dr. D. Meuwissen
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Methods of Design Analysis: The Meanings of Design

Vakcode	L_ZAMAACW013 ()
Periode	Periode 1+2
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. J.C. Gimeno Martinez
Examinator	dr. J.C. Gimeno Martinez

Docent(en)	dr. J.C. Gimeno Martinez
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Design' represents all kind of artifacts which humans create and use on a daily basis, the designed material products of a culture. These artifacts could range from clothes to posters, or from tourism souvenirs to chairs. Some artifacts might be stylish, and others much less so. But how to study design? This course focuses on object-centred research methods and studies design as embedded in its cultural context. Students will explore design in its complexity as a signifying agent for economy, society and technology.

Inhoud vak

This course explores a number of methods and approaches for the study of design such as John A Walker's 'Production-Consumption Model' and Igor Kopytoff's 'The Cultural Biography of Things'. Alongside, other methodologies such as the biographical method, the typological approach or the material/techniques approach are also considered.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, seminars, discussions and group presentations.

Toetsvorm

Preparatory assignments (40%) and research paper (60%). Student presence in class is required. No more than 2 absences allowed.

Literatuur

Walker, John A. Design History and the History of Design. London: Pluto, 1989

Vereiste voorkennis

An academic bachelor, or a minor, in the Arts, Literature, Culture, Design or Media Studies. Theoretically interested students are particularly welcome to apply

Doelgroep

Master's students Arts and Culture, program Design Cultures

Overige informatie

Students who do not have the proper background will be asked to make up for deficiencies by means of certain bachelor courses or reading lists.

Reading Concepts of Intermediality

Vakcode	L_ZAMAACW014 ()
Periode	Periode 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Koevoets MA
Examinator	dr. S. Koevoets MA
Docent(en)	dr. S. Koevoets MA

Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

At the end of the course the student

- Has a general understanding of the historically developed relationships between various arts and media and the way critics have defined these.
- Has some understanding of the cultural and historical contexts in which cross-media developments and intermediality play a major role and is able to critically reflect on these.
- Has a sound theoretical background and the capacity to relate that to an analysis of concrete objects or cases.
- Is able to hold an academic discussion individually and in larger groups; to present a sophisticated argument orally; and to sustain an academic analysis of a certain length in writing.

Inhoud vak

This course offers an introduction to concepts and practices of intermediality. It offers a survey of the major concepts used in contemporary debates on the synergy between the arts and the media, and teaches the students not only to get a grip on those terms, but also to understand them in relation to each other. On the basis of these key terms, students acquire a good understanding of the theoretical debates on intermediality, while learning to analyze concrete objects and practices. Students are asked to relate the terms and theoretical issues discussed to their own disciplinary backgrounds. A close reading of "objects" and texts, will be part of the training. At the end of the course students not only understand the major (theoretical) aspects concerning intermediality, but they can also present a sophisticated analysis in writing.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar. The course combines seminars with in- class presentations by the students. Students will be encouraged to make use of Canvas or websites to exchange ideas and information.

Toetsvorm

Evaluations will be on the basis of participation, presentation and final essay. RMA students will have to perform on a higher level than regular MA students

Literatuur

A reader will be provided.

Vereiste voorkennis

An academic bachelor, or a minor, in the Arts, Cultural or Media Studies. Theoretically interested students are particularly welcome to apply.

Doelgroep

Master's students Comparative Arts and Media Studies, English Language and Culture; MPhil- students Visual Arts, Media and Architecture.

Overige informatie

Students who do not have the right background will be asked to make up for deficiencies by means of reading lists.

Research Master Seminar Sound Heritage

Vakcode	L_KBMPHUA001 ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. J. Fidom
Examinator	prof. dr. J. Fidom
Docent(en)	prof. dr. J. Fidom
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Sound Heritage aims to identify, assess and answer the questions that arise when sounds and sound concepts approved in the past are considered to be preserved.

Inhoud vak

Sound Heritage explores what sounds and sound concepts have been approved in the past; under what conditions these might be considered heritage today; and what saving such concepts for future generations actually means. In order to keep this huge and new research field manageable, Sound Heritage focuses on music-related sounds and sound concepts. Two historic 'sound carriers' will be used as research topics: pipe organs and high-end sound systems, as they both document what sounds once were considered convincing.

A major complication is that sound is volatile: it exists only in the now, and only in one's own ears. This means that Sound Heritage researchers need to question listening cultures and skills developed in the past, as well as to question and develop own ones. Put differently: artistic activity (listening to sound in music) will necessarily be a major element in this seminar, to be integrated in otherwise 'normal' epistemic research strategies. This confronts us with quite a few basic philosophical/aesthetical issues. What is it to listen, and what to negotiate sound? How does sound come into existence, and does it ever cease to exist? To complicate matters even more, sound recording and reproducing technology, an indispensable tool for Sound Heritage researchers, is problematic by definition.

During the seminar, these issues will be addressed in a series of lectures and interactive workshops. Additionally, in order to make Sound Heritage as practice-based as possible, the seminar includes a fair amount of field work as well. In the 2018-edition of the seminar, Sound Heritage students will be assigned, as a group, to map the network resulting from and producing the preparations of the restoration of the world-famous Schnitger Organ at Zwolle, built in 1721 and given a different sound in the 1950s, by identifying and assessing relevant sources (including interviewing significant 'actors'); and by exploring which roles sound recordings (of the organ, in the past and by the students themselves) play. Eventually, the students are asked to advise and/or assist the people involved in the decision-making process. Next to that, students will have to do 'solo research' as well, by critically assessing the sound systems used by themselves in their everyday life.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, guest lectures by leading professionals in related research fields, workshops, field work. The focus is on active participation. Attendance mandatory.

Toetsvorm

Presentation of and report on the field work assignment (to be produced as a group; 40%); presentation annex essay on the student's own sound systems (30%); participation in the discussions during class (30%).

Literatuur

Online reader in preparation. Students may already start reading the contributions by Sterne, Ihde, and Murray Schafer to the Sounds Studies Reader; explore the online Journal of Sonic Studies. A good introduction to the issues to be addressed is the e-book Music as Installation Art by Hans Fidom (downloadable for free on www.orgelpark.nl).

Vereiste voorkennis

Admission to the Humanities Research Master. Attitude is essential: students need to be open to (develop) new ways of thinking, new ways of researching (connecting and interrelating artistic and epistemic strategies), and be highly interested in music, sound, history, technology, and philosophy.

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Students that attended the honors course Music: Listening & Philosophy are well-prepared. The biennial seminar Sound Heritage alternates with this honors course.

Doelgroep

Sound Heritage is developed for students that are interested to work for heritage agencies, and/or to become professional researchers in the field of (immaterial) heritage preservation, restoration, reconstruction, etc.

Overige informatie

The biennial seminar Sound Heritage is an initiative of the endowed chair Organ Studies at VU University. It is multidisciplinary by nature, critically exploring and connecting the fields of Heritage Studies, Sound Studies, Music and Art Studies, Philosophy, Technology, and their respective histories. Language: English. Two groups of students cooperate in this seminar: research master students and 'normal' master students.

Seminar Architecture

Vakcode	L_KBMAKGS013 ()
Periode	Periode 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. T. Verlaan
Examinator	dr. T. Verlaan
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Training students in research strategies dealing with the history of (interior) architecture and in developing and presenting critical reflections.

Inhoud vak

This course introduces students to a contemporary research topic in the field of architectural and/or urban history. The collective discussion of a series of texts and projects will be combined with the development and exploration of an individual research question relating to the central research topic. Special attention will be paid to the different levels of scale the architectural designer is confronted with: from the urban fabric to the building's interior arrangements.

This year's seminar investigates current debates about gentrification as the ultimate consequence of a much-longer historical process, which was triggered by the urban renewal agendas of the post-war era. Specifically, we will examine the discovery of urban living in Amsterdam during the 1960s and 1970s, a time at which a younger generation started moving back to the central districts of other Western cities as well. The newcomers arrived with a sense of zeal – renovating, restoring, preserving or at least making their newly-found habitat fit for living. In their view, the urban landscapes of the nineteenth century were a more authentic living environment than the suburbs they usually had grown up in. From this perspective, inner-city districts such as Amsterdam's De Pijp, New York's Brooklyn and Berlin's Kreuzberg served as a refuge for young middle classes seeking a way out from an increasingly technocratic and bureaucratic society.

Through innovative research in local archives, students will gain a deeper understanding of the appreciation for our built environment. Questions such as why a younger generation started moving back to the inner cities in the first place and how they experienced the social and physical fabric in which they arrived are central to this course. Working with a combination of literature on themes in the fields of architecture, interior design, urban history and sociology, students will be provided with an interdisciplinary approach to architectural history.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminars, excursions.

Toetsvorm

Weekly assignments, presentations, midterm paper (35%) and a final paper (65%).

Literatuur

To be announced

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelor in Comparative Arts and Media Studies or Art History.

Doelgroep

Master's students Arts and Culture; MPhil-students Arts and Culture, Program Visual Arts, Media and Architecture.

Seminar Contemporary Art

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS027 ()
Periode	Periode 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Examinator	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Docent(en)	dr. S. Lutticken
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This seminar aims to train students in research skills pertaining to the study of contemporary art, encompassing both in-depth study of specific works and oeuvres and their historical and theoretical contextualization.

Inhoud vak

This year's course is titled "Nuclear Aesthetics" and focuses on artistic responses to the nuclear regime from Hiroshima to Fukushima and beyond. Inhabiting, as we all do, a planet that has become a global nuclear laboratory, artists have made work about nuclear energy and nuclear arms for a variety of reasons, including political and ecological concern; the boundaries with activism can be fluid. In many practices we also see an interest in what can be regarded as the fundamental aesthetic challenge of atomic energy: the invisibility or "insensibility" of radiation. As the anthropologist Joseph Masco puts it: "While the prosthetic devices that populate nuclear physics laboratories enable scientists to enter the subatomic realm and measure the material effects of plutonium and other radionuclides, most people in the nuclear age remain literally senseless to radiation, dependent in everyday life on biological, not machinic, insights."

In this respect, artists are part of "most people." And yet: can art provide ways of imagining and thinking the nuclear, the subatomic? Modern art has often replaced representation with abstraction, declaring new realities and new visions beyond, above or below mundane realism. In 1945, modernism and the avant-garde got more than they bargained for; from that moment on, from the Surrealists and Situationists to Conceptual art, we see a frequently ambiguous encounter with the nuclear, its lure and its horror. After the end of the Cold War interest waned, but since the Fukushima disaster radioactivity (its in the air for you and me, as Kraftwerk put it) is back on the agenda in contemporary art.

Is there an aesthetic politics or political aesthetics that can be gleaned from various practices? What theoretical and historiographic tools do we need when studying such aesthetic practices (which may themselves be research-based or include a theoretical component)? We will read key texts by authors from various disciplines, view films and have discussions with artists; each student will select a research topic that can be monographic or thematic in nature, and present their findings in the form of a presentation and in writing.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar.

Toetsvorm

Participants will prepare and lead the discussions of theoretical and historical texts (20% of the final grade), deliver a presentation in class as a progress report on their research (20%), and produce a final paper (60%).

Literatuur

To be announced.

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelor in Comparative Arts and Media Studies or Art History.

Doelgroep

Master's students Contemporary Art History; Research Master's students Arts and Culture.

Study Trip

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS029 ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Examinator	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Docent(en)	prof. dr. K. Kwastek
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege, Excursie, Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Kennismaking met kunstwerken al dan niet in situ of als onderdeel van museale presentaties. Het in praktijk brengen van verworven kennis en vaardigheden in de vorm van een referaat en/of rondleiding ter plekke.

Inhoud vak

Het reisdoel wordt in het eerste semester bekend gemaakt. Duur van de excursie is zes of zeven dagen.

Onderwijsvorm

Excursie met referaten en groepsdiscussies ter plekke. De referaatonderwerpen worden voorbereid in nauw overleg met de begeleidende docent.

Toetsvorm

Actieve deelname, referaat.

Literatuur

Opdrachtgebonden, in overleg met de begeleidende docent.

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelordiploma dat toegang biedt tot de master Kunst- en cultuurwetenschappen.

Doelgroep

De cursus is verplicht voor masterstudenten Contemporary Art History en Kunst, Markt en Connaisseurschap. Overige master- en researchmasterstudenten Kunst- en cultuurwetenschappen kunnen een schriftelijk gemotiveerd verzoek indienen om te worden toegelaten tot de cursus.

Overige informatie

M.b.t. de financiën: voor deze excursie wordt deelnemers dringend aangeraden tijdig een eigen financiële bijdrage te reserveren. De VU dekt niet alle kosten van de excursie, maar biedt een tegemoetkoming aan (indien de cursus met goed gevolg wordt afgerond). Onder de te maken kosten moet gedacht worden aan de reiskosten (zowel internationaal als ter plaatse), verblijfkosten, entrees voor musea, maaltijden etc. De begeleidende docent zullen hun best doen om zoveel mogelijk gratis entrees of entrees met korting te regelen. De docent informeert de deelnemers tijdig of vervoer en verblijf gezamenlijk geregeld worden of niet.

Trending Topics Arts and Culture

Vakcode	L_KAMAKGS025 ()
Periode	Periode 1+2+3+4+5
Credits	3.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. W.A.H. Modest
Examinator	dr. W.A.H. Modest
Docent(en)	prof. dr. K. Kwastek, dr. W.A.H. Modest
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the historical developments of the field of Material Culture Studies
2. Identify some of the key theoretical perspectives and thinkers of the field
3. Be able to employ theoretical perspectives in the analysis of a specific case

Inhoud vak

This seminar explores some of the key thinkers and ideas that have shaped the increasingly popular field of material culture studies. We will introduce the main theoretical and methodological perspectives within the field, highlighting how material culture studies has influenced approaches to issues as diverse as power, consumption, taste and style.

Since the 1970s, material culture studies has developed as a robust interdisciplinary field of enquiry, dedicated to the exploration of the

meaning of things and their role in constituting our social and cultural worlds. The field has developed along different traditions, in the USA and UK for example, and has affected a range of other disciplines such as (art) history, anthropology, and design and fashion studies in different ways.

We will explore the early histories of material-based anthropology, associated for example with the British School of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, through to Gell's influential work *Art and Agency*, and the group of scholars that developed the *Journal of Material Culture Studies*. We will examine what has been described as the material turn in the social sciences and the humanities, and the now popular areas of inquiry such as ANT, New Materialism and Object Oriented Ontology, interested in the study of nonhuman agency.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar. The seminar will comprise three lectures, each organized around a series of readings. In addition to the lectures, we will organize three one-hour sessions to discuss the readings.

- 3 x two-hour lectures; one per month, beginning in February 2018.

- Each seminar will include a guest speaker.

- Lecture breakdown

- Introduction to the day's topic/speaker
- Guest lecturer (1hour)
- General discussion
- Follow-up discussion with students about readings.

- Dates

• Lecture 1. Friday February 16, 2018. Early development of the field [its prehistory], its key proponents and theories.

• Lecture 2. Friday March 16, 2018. Material Culture Studies, the Middle Years.

• Lecture 3. Friday April 20, 2018. Material Culture Studies Today.

- Time

• 10:00 – 12:00 – Introduction and guest lecture

• 12:00 – 13:00 – discussion of literature.

Toetsvorm

Short written paper, of not more than 1000 words, in response to (a) specific reading(s), or relating the field of Material Culture Studies to a specific case; Class participation

Literatuur

Will be provided.

Doelgroep

Master's students Arts and Culture

Visual Arts, Media and Architecture Tutorial 1

Vakcode	L_AAMPVAM001 ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	12.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Niveau	500

Visual Arts, Media and Architecture Tutorial 2

Vakcode	L_AAMPVAM002 ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	12.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. S. Lutticken
Niveau	500