A42K4B Critical Studies Design Studio 4:4 12.0 credits

Kritiska studier - studio 4:4

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

Course syllabus for A42K4B valid from Autumn 2009

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Architecture

Specific prerequisites

Bachelor's Degree, or an equivalent level, within the field of Architecture.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

Förändrande praktiker / Altering Practices

Altering practices is a research studio based on critical design tools, methods, and projects developed in the courses Feminist Design Tools, Participatory mapping, and Dialogical Interventions. The principal aim of the course is to develop the student's capacity to critically understand, evaluate, and contextualise the transformative potential of their own and others' design projects and practices. The design process will engage further mapping and critical writing practices.

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:
- Propose a series of architectural interventions and demonstrate their critical implications from a feminist intersectional perspective
- Pursue a self reflexive critical practice
- Understand and reflect critically on central notions such as transformative potential, emancipatory strategy, and altering practice.

Overall goals

1. The course is part of the Critical Studies Design Studio. Through architectural projects, this Studio investigates different experiences of architecture and conceptions of space, in relation to the synthezising design process.
2. The course/project goal is to increase the student's knowledge in this area/field and skills/knowledge in the field of architecture in general. The students will enter the project with varying degrees of knowledge/skills and will subsequently end up at different levels at the end of the course/project.
3. The individual student must show an increase in the particular skills/knowledge offered in the studio and in the field of architecture in general.

Course contents

Taking the point of departure from proposed interventions, the students will work with methods for imagining their project's specific transformative potential in an extended geographical and temporal perspective. Further they will be asked to articulate, through self-reflexive and dialogical methods, the practice developed over the course of the year in terms of an altering practice.

Disposition

The course includes several seminars with design assignments, presentations and group discussions. There is also individual tutoring and a final review for the presentation and discussion of individual work. Parallel to the course, there is also a series of text seminars with literature on methodology and theory.

Course literature

-Jane Rendell, Barabara Penner, Ian Borden (eds.), Gender Space Architecture, London: Routledge, 2000.
-Peter Blundell Jones, Doina Petresu, Jeremy Till (eds.), Architecture and Participation, London: Spon Press, 2005.
-Andrea Kahn (ed.), Drawing, Building, Text, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996.
-muf, This is what we do. A muf manual, London: Ellipsis, 2001.
-Joan Ockman (ed.), The Pragmatist Imagination. Thinking about “Things in the Making”, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2000.
*Specific literature will be assigned at the beginning of the course.

Examination

Based on recommendation from KTH’s coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

Other requirements for final grade

a) Presentation requirements
Presentation requirements will be handed out at the start of the course.

b) Examination
80% attendance. Active participation in lectures, tutorials, and seminars etc. Passed intermediate and final assessments. Compulsory attendance during the assessment reviews.
Completion: The project work shall be delivered and, if necessary, reworked within the set time limit. See general directions.
(Overall principle: Autumn term projects must be approved during the following Spring term: Spring term projects must be approved before the start of the following Autumn term. The reworked projects must be delivered at least one week before the time limit.)
The project work is to be documented in a portfolio, including drawings, analysis and models. The work process shall be legible.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.