



A52K2B Critical Studies Design Studio 5:2 12.0 credits

Kritiska studier - studio 5:2

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 A52K2B valid from Autumn 2010

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 + passed 4th year studies.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

Dialogiska Interventioner/Dialogical Intervention

Dialogical Interventions is a research studio based on critical design tools and methods developed in the course Feminist Design Tools. Students will develop architectural design projects in dialogue with a historical, physical and theoretical context, where a critical approach to power relations is used to synthesize, shift and transform the thought and practice within architecture and design. The principal aim of the course is to develop the students' ability to work with architectural design supported by a combination of generative and explorative critical perspectives

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Develop one's own position within feminist critical thought around central themes such as diaspora, identity/subjectification, materiality and power
- Discuss, present and produce architecture from within a critical approach to power relations that questions and redefines normalizing notions, situations and practices in the built environment
- Apply and document a working method that supports the connection between research and 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 synthesizing 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

Relationships between space, bodies and places are the main focus. Through physical interventions themes such as diaspora, identity/subjectification, materiality and power in 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of various scales will be explored. The research conducted through the studio will use practice-based methods considering the architectural design projects to have a principal role in knowledge production.

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

-Gender Space Architecture, av Jane Rendell, Barabara Penner, Ian Borden, London: Routledge, 2000.

-Feminist Political Theory: An Introduction, 2nd ed., Valerie Bryson, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

-Feminism & Methodology, ed. Sandra Harding, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1987.

-Minnich, Elizabeth Kamarck 2005, Transforming Knowledge, Philadelphia: Temple University Press

*Specific literature will be assigned at the beginning of the course.

Examination

- PRO1 - Project, 9.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

- PRO2 - Project, 3.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

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.

During the second half of the fall semester the 5th year students are to do a Thesis Preparation.

Through the development of a 'Thesis Preparation Booklet' to be handed into the Studierådet before the end of the semester (deadline will be announced at the beginning of the course) students will have developed a clear focus, thesis question, for their diploma project and will have the opportunity to build an architectural design research on a specific subject the students want to pursue further. The architectural design research, could have an architectural design agenda, technical/material agenda, theoretical or programmatic agenda. It is important that all material is processed by the student and brought together in a booklet. The Thesis Preparation is an opportunity for the students to develop specific techniques and skills as well as to formulate an architectural design ambition through design research.

Requirements:

A4 sized and bind 'Thesis Preparation Booklet' of 20 pages including text, images and drawings.

The studio presentation will be part of the future diploma portfolio and shall be delivered in an appropriate and fully qualified way.

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.