Kursplan

Course for third-cycle education at the Faculty of Culture and Society

Swedish title
Rum, politik och estetik

English title
Space, politics and aesthetics

Decision-making body and date of approval
Director of doctoral studies at the Faculty of Culture and Society 12 03 2019 after preparation in the Board of Supervisors and Research and research education board.
Valid from: spring semester 2019

Code
KS00004

Credits
7.5 credits

Cycle
Third

Grading scale
Pass or Fail

Entry requirements
Students must be admitted to third cycle studies

Intended learning outcomes
On completion of the course the doctoral student should be able to:

- understand and describe the spatial and aesthetic dimensions of politics
- interpret and critically discuss forms and modes of politics with the point of departure in central texts in the field of political aesthetics and political philosophy
- demonstrate an insight into the conditioning aspects of basic concepts and imaginaries such as judgment, common sense, (re)presentation and equality
• demonstrate an insight into the conditions and consequences of the interplay between spatial organisation and creative agency in relation to political agency
• be able to position her/his own research in political aesthetic terms

Course description
The purpose of the course is for the doctoral student to gain basic acquaintance with the field of political aesthetics through close reading of philosophical texts, and to be able to position the own work in relation to the field.

Content
The course is motivated by the increasing attention to fundamental ontological aspects that accompanies current political debates. Political polarization has prompted a new awareness as concerns the conditioning of worldviews, the role of spatial imaginaries, ideas of commonality or ‘givenness’, attitudes to transformative agency etc; basic qualitative conceptions often embedded in opaque technologies and discrete infrastructures. The key text in the course is Mustafa Dikeç’s *Space, Politics and Aesthetics* (2015), which takes as its point of departure the centrality of space to political thinking. Through a brief presentation and discussion of Immanuel Kant’s (1724–1804) aesthetics, in particular the third critique, *Critique of Judgement* (1790), the book introduces and discusses the thinking of Hanna Arendt, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Jacques Rancière. With this as a basis, the course answers to the demand for interdisciplinary study across the fields of politics, geography, philosophy and aesthetics, addressing new tendencies through close reading also of original texts. While emphasizing conceptual and topical understanding, the course will give special attention to the generic competences of reading, interpreting and articulating. The course will also facilitate discussion about contemporary dilemmas and controversies as concerns the basic conditioning of politics including the forms and means of present political imaginaries and manifestations, as approached in the projects of the course participants.

Work formats
Based on Dikeç’s book, the course takes the form of a colloquium including brief introductory lectures and seminars. Senior researchers will introduce key readings and ongoing research in relation to key texts, which will be subject to close reading and interpretation. Discussion will be prioritized, and will be fostered by assigning students the task of preparing and presenting selected readings. The course includes three physical meetings of 1-2 days duration. Primary readings are offered in the course plan, and students will be invited to propose additional secondary readings related to their work. The course includes a seminar where the students’ final assignments – a short paper – will be presented and discussed. This assignment will primarily concern the relation of the theme of the course to the student’s doctoral thesis and to her/his own discipline.
Formats for assessing student performances
The assessment of the student’s performance will be based on active participation in discussions, presentation of readings, and the submission of an individual short paper (3500 words).

Reading list

Basic
Arendt, Hanna (1958) *The Human Condition*.
Arendt, Hanna (1977) *Between Past and Future*.

Secondary
(excerpts to be defined)

Resource
(excerpts to be defined)
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/48433
Kant, Immanuel *The Critique of the Pure Reason*. Cambridge University Press.
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4280
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5683

Transitional regulations
In situations where the course is no longer offered or the course contents have been significantly changed, the doctoral candidate has the right, during a period of one year following the change, to be examined on two different occasions in accordance with the course syllabus valid at the date of registration.

Course evaluation
The course ends with a written course evaluation. The result from the evaluation is summarized by the course leader and the doctoral student(s) are informed about the result of the evaluation. Also, and based on the evaluation results, the course leader defines improvements and planned changes in the course for the next time the course is offered.