



COURSE SYLLABUS

Wax och Gold – Knowledge as we don't know it

Vax och Guld – Kunskap vi inte känner igen

7,5 credits / 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course code: KONS03
Established by: Head of Department 2021-02-15
Valid from: Spring semester 2021
Education level: First cycle
Subject group/ Main field of study group: FK2 Fri konst/21110 Fri konst
Disciplinary domain: 100% Art
Division into course components: Final examination only

1. Main course content:

The students are introduced to the specific figure of *Sem ena Werq (Wax and Gold)* in Ethiopian culture. Wax and Gold is a literary form and discourse that plays with double entendre and ambiguity. As a literary genre it can be divided into a dozen different styles, or; ways in which meaning is distributed over multiple semantic layers.

With the help of leading Ethiopian artists, poets, art curators, scholars, journalists, filmmakers and playwrighters – based in Ethiopia and elsewhere in its diaspora – students will be given the opportunity to develop artistic approaches to and with tropes of ambiguity, uncertainty and indeterminacy.

On another level, the course aim to introduce and probe concepts such as “epistemic violence”, “cognitive injustice” or “epistemicide” by examining and comparing what it means to establish a connection between what is known and unknown in the context of fine art and global anticolonial struggle.

The course is planned around three parts:

- Part 1. Introductory lectures, seminar discussions and writing assignments
- Part 2. Individual artistic practice and reading groups
- Part 3. In-depth lectures, seminar discussions, presentations and collegial response

2. Intended learning outcomes:

After completing the course, the student is should be able to;

- briefly describe the styles of the Wax and Gold tradition and exemplify how it has informed contemporary art and literature, popular culture and philosophy in Ethiopia
- exercise multiple tropes of ambiguity, double entendre, indeterminacy and uncertainty in a work of art or literary composition
- identify how epistemologies situated in Ethiopia and Sweden diverge
- explain and discuss concepts such as epistemic violence, cognitive justice, epistemicide and epistemic oppression
- discuss and evaluate contemporary attempts to decolonize art institutions, artistic practice and knowledge production

3. Entry requirements:

Specific requirements:

- At least 60 credits within the field of Fine Art (including Curating art), Literary composition, or equivalent experience.

Additionally, proficiency is required in English equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school English Course 6 (English course B).

4. Grading scale:

The course uses the grading scale Fail (U) or Pass (G).

5. Forms of examination:

- Active participation in seminars and lectures
- Submitting written memo assignments
- Submitting documentation, visualizations or excerpts of artistic works
- Oral presentations and collegial response

It is optional for the student to complete presentations, written assignments and the take-home practical examination individually, in pairs or smaller groups.

The examiner is responsible for providing the grading criteria for the examination, and for these to be published on the intranet

Students who receive the grade Fail (underkänd) in an examination are entitled to take a further five tests as long as the course is given, in order to achieve the grade Pass (godkänd). Students who fail an examination twice by an examiner are entitled to request that another examiner is appointed to decide grades for the test. A request should be made to the Head of Department.

6. Reading list and other study material:

The reading list is presented as an appendix to the course syllabus and announced three weeks prior to the start of the course.

7. Additional Information:

The department is responsible for other essential information, such as detailed teaching methods and grading criteria, to be available for students before the start of the course.

This course may not be credited towards a degree together with similar courses taken and passed, where the content is completely or partly the same as the content of this course.

The course is given at a distance and is online based, which requires access to computer and internet. Course material is available on the internet.

The language of instruction is English.