

Spring 2015
Critical Curating: Urban Digital Art
Modern Culture: Theoretical Topic: HMKK03204U
Graduate course

EXAM GUIDELINES – PAPER + CLASS PRESENTATION

Formal information:

Exam dates: **June 4 - 11**. Submit via Absalon (one pdf file).

Paper length: 7-9 pages (1 page = 2400 characters incl spaces).

The two exam questions you may choose between will be handed out via Absalon one week before the paper deadline. You got one week to write your paper. The literature you use should be within the curriculum of this course, which must represent at least two languages. External censor.

The exam also includes 80% participation in class and approval of one oral presentation, 15 min.

Remember to include (in one pdf file submitted):

Official front page (Absalon, exam space)

Curriculum with my signature (Absalon, course space)

Referenced literature list

(NB: This exam form is the only one that BA-level students can take at an MA-level course)

To begin with, orient yourself in what is expected from you – according to the course goals. Make sure you “tick off” all these goals – that you work on all the levels they imply:

- Students can identify significant and problematic issues and tendencies in the genealogy of urban digital art and outline these in relation to their underlying theories and methodologies in a clear, oral form
- Students can characterize relevant hypotheses relating to curatorial practice with urban digital art as a cultural phenomenon, and in relation to viewpoints in the broader domain of urbanity and aesthetics within arts and cultural studies
- Students can independently analyze and evaluate discourses in curatorial practice with urban digital art and reflect on the perspectives as a domain of criticality in the media city
- Students can translate methodological and theoretical reflection into curatorial potential and implement research and theory in concrete curatorial practice

Your topic departs from our exhibition project and our practical pursuit with this: To challenge current curatorial practices with urban digital art, by also challenging the discourses that inform them. This practical pursuit reflects the question of why we even need to do so, relating to what is the role of urban digital art. Why does it matter that digital art/moving image interferes with the public domain? What (discourses, modes of perception, politics of space, etc.) does it interfere with? Why does the curatorial practice, method, and intent (reflecting ideology of philosophical position) matter as a practice of intervention in the public domain? This is your overall topic of departure. From here you delimit your focus by choosing to answer one of the two exam questions.

Curatorial statement in paper:

Your paper should live up to the academic requirements of a normal paper, only it varies by one element: a one-page curatorial statement. This is your departure from our exhibition project with your individual wonder departing from this. Includes the problem statement/research question: What “problem”/issue do you want to examine and what angle have you selected to discuss this (theory, methodological approach)? End the curatorial statement with you problem statement/research question, which should be very narrow! This question you will “answer” or qualify during your paper.

In addition to the paper, you are invited to present at the symposium like the rest of the class. This presentation will not be graded. You have all let me know that you will do this – if you should regret I will need to know before May 18. I recommend you to take this challenge of course, it will be a good experience for you. The presentation should be 10 min followed by 10 min of questioning.

Example of structure, oral presentation:

- Short introduction (connect to the written synopsis)
- Explain “the new” in what you have found out, your “results” (may be a more qualified question, no final answers are expected)
- Explain how you arrived at that conclusion (empirical examination, theory, method)
- Explain the delimitations and perspectives of your examination
- End – point out what you think is most important to discuss afterwards, e.g. results, method problems, perspectives. (The exam-discussion is not required to stick to this, but it will help you to influence the direction of our conversation).

General good advice for oral presentations:

- Rehearse your presentation – present it to yourself out loud at least six times (says the experts on oral presentations) after it is completely done.
- Be to-the-minute of your time planning. You will be cut off after ten minutes.
- Write a keyword overview that is easy for you to navigate during the oral discussion.
- Avoid text on slides except from credits and perhaps main points.
- Make sure you are familiar with your presentation system before your exam, that you know how to navigate your presentation etc.
- Do not read aloud!
- Believe in what you say (or don't say it)
- If you are asked a questions that is unclear to you, ask what it means.