

Portfolio exam in KUN2500/4500 Current Topics in Art History Fall 2018: “Art and Criticism in the Anthropocene”

Assignment description given to the students

Your final exam will be your four texts written for the Oslo Form Lab website combined in a single document. The texts for the exam do not have to match the texts on the website, if you want, you can edit, add or delete segments in your texts. Evaluation criteria will be: readability, logical structure in the text, good selection of topics/cases, level of intellectual reflection, use of relevant theories/literature and academic framework, and creative use of language. MA and BA level will be evaluated differently.

All four texts combined should be approximately 10 pages (maximum 12) with Times New Roman font size 12 and line spacing 1,5. The total length of 10-12 pages do not include references and images. Insert images, full reference list and footnotes after each text. Correct use of referencing style is expected ([Chicago 16th A](#) or [Harvard](#)). Use your candidate number (can be found in Studentweb), not your name.

Grading criteria

The learning outcome of the course is as follows:

- To understand how the geological concept of the Anthropocene raises new questions within humanities and the arts.
- To be able to discuss these questions in relation to contemporary arts (visual art, architecture or design).
- To have developed skills in creating writing.
- To have improved academic English.
- To have practiced different genres of art writing (exhibition reviews, interviews, press releases, or introductions to a theoretical concept).
- To be able to communicate advanced knowledge about art to a wider audience.
- For MA students: To be able to critically discuss the topic/period of your MA thesis to contemporary issues related to the Anthropocene.

There has been no fixed syllabus in this course and the students have been asked to find, and to familiarize themselves, with relevant literature/theories. In the lectures, the students have been introduced to the works of Donna Haraway, Jane Bennett, Mckenzie Wark, Bruno Latour, Arne Næss, Timothy Morton, and Félix Guattari. The students have also been introduced to the basic ideas of the non-human turn in the humanities and to indigenous ontologies and non-Western cosmologies.

The students have been asked to choose four topics according to their own interest, previous background, or relating to their MA thesis. The research question they have been asked to address when writing the texts is as follows:

What can this material (art, building, exhibition, book, historical material) say about how we have understood, understand—or should understand:

- 1) Nature
- or
- 2) Technology
- or
- 3) Human Beings
- (or all three)

The students have been asked to write in a different genre than a normal academic assignment. They have been asked to *address the general public*, therefore, the main emphasis when grading will be *readability* in terms of good flow of language, logical structure, and ability to convey complex ideas in an understandable manner.

Other grading criteria will be good selection of topics/cases, level of intellectual reflection, use of relevant theories/literature and academic framework, and creative use of language.

Criteria for the grades A or B (MA level)

In addition to the previously mentioned evaluation criteria, the highest grades on MA level need to engage creatively with relevant theoretical framework and show a high level of intellectual reflection.

Criteria for the grades A or B (BA level)

In addition to the previously mentioned evaluation criteria, the highest grades on BA level need to introduce the reader to some relevant theoretical framework and show capacities to reflect intellectually in relation to their chosen topics.

If a student has written four good texts, but has not engaged critically with theoretical literature, the grade will be C.

If a student has not written four texts of good quality and has not engaged critically with theoretical literature or lacks maturity or independence in relation to the topic (art and criticism in the Anthropocene), the grade will be D or E.