

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code	DD3008
Course Title	Cities, Bodies, Memories, Art and Everyday Life In Contemporary Singapore
Pre-requisites	NIL
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours

Course Aims

Starting from the city as a spectacle, in this course you will explore how the Everyday in a city provides authentic experience and how artists approach it. Through a range of artistic methods you will learn about the cultural and social fabric of Singapore as a generic and poetic city, a place of shared desires and memories. You will explore architectures of the Everyday from two perspectives: "city as text" and "city as body". Through these two distinct forms of interpretation and interaction — reading and writing — you will engage with the phenomenon Future Asian City as a performative socio-political space and the practices it evokes in art, education, and media.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the use of Everyday in artistic practices.
2. Critically engage with cultural practices of the urban environment.
3. Reflect on how the urban fabric influences art and its various forms.
4. Present, evaluate and reflect on artistic and cultural developments in “Future Asian Spaces” such as Singapore.
5. Implement methodologies of artistic urban research to explore the Everyday in Singapore.

Course Content

The course will give you an interdisciplinary introduction into artistic urban research from the perspective of modern and contemporary art history, cultural theory, and urban studies. Crossing regions and continents in theory and practice, a field work component will focus on current and historical developments in Singapore. In the course you will learn a materialistic approach to culture based on the methodologies of practice theory, i.e. you will learn how to create a multidisciplinary methodological framework (academic, artistic, curatorial) for field research and how you to deploy it in cultural urban space.

Art History

The course begins by surveying the role that the Everyday plays in the development of artistic practices from the 1950s to the present. This introduction helps you to understand the history of art and its avantgardes from the perspective of ordinary life. In combination with urban studies, the city as an active generic body of knowledge will be examined that is collectively shared but also contested by economic, political and social forces.

Cultural Theory

You will be introduced to the field of cultural theory also for a understanding of how mass culture has influenced artistic responses to their daily environment. It also looks into theories in favor of the political reading of culture: who speaks for whom in which space, who is silenced, and what are the

possibilities of change reflected in art. Both introductions into the history of the avant-gardes (Art History) and an introduction to political thinking through culture (Cultural Theory), will serve to set analytical tools for research and its outcomes be it in creative practice or academic writing.

Urban Studies

Twisting Art History and Cultural Theory with current developments of urban spaces, the readings and field studies will allow you to understand the intersection of the Everyday and the social fabric of the City (Singapore). By that, you will look from an analytical visual perspective in how artists intervene in social fabric of the urban.

Methodologies

The course will give you a multi-disciplinary theoretical perspective on artistic developments since the 1950s and how they intersect with urban developments. Field studies including interviews with artists, curators, and cultural workers will enable you to learn empirically about art and how to develop a research methodology in the field.

Class Assignments

The course has three main assignments: 1. a written literature review which includes an in-class presentation; 2. the active-in-class participation including discussions and feedback sessions; 3. the methodological preparation of a field study assigned to the working group together with a written analysis of the field study, presented and discussed in class before final submission.

These assignments will demonstrate your ability to understand theoretical texts and develop an argument out of literature review, to follow up with such an argument over the course of the seminar and bring it through empirical research to a comparative conclusion of various practices in art, culture education, and media.