

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Anthropology and the Visual**

**Antropologin och det visuella**

**7.5 Higher Education Credits  
7.5 ECTS credits**

**Course code:** SAM241  
**Valid from:** Spring 2014  
**Date of approval:** 2013-11-20  
**Department:** Department of Social Anthropology

**Subject:**  
**Specialisation:** A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## Decision

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements course

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
M241	Anthropology and the Visual	7.5

## Course content

Visual and audiovisual media have been part of anthropology since the beginning of the discipline, taking a range of forms in relation to theoretical and technical developments. This course provides an introduction to the multiple ways anthropologists engage with visual methods and presentations of research, as well as with ethnographic studies of everyday visual and material forms. Focusing on photography, film and art practice, the course raises issues of the relationships between collaborative method and expressive analysis; experiment and representation; the visible and the concealed; seeing and other senses. The course offers an historical outline of the visual in anthropology, and situates the subject area in social and material environments, as well as in contemporary discussions on multisensoriality, ethics and epistemology.

## Learning outcomes

After having completed the course the student will be able to:

- \* describe various theories, practices and debates concerning the visual in anthropology,
- \* apply a critical perspective onto abstract arguments and complex theoretical relationships, and relate these to the employment of audio/visual methods and research presentations,
- \* display a capacity to independently produce an academic text in the current field, alternatively complemented by an audio/visual work.

## Education

The course includes nine lectures and discussion-based seminars, and a digital learning platform (Mondo).

The course evaluation will center on how well the course was related to the teaching goals.

The course will be in English.

### **Forms of examination**

The course will be examined through an assignment where the student can choose between a written text of 4000 words and a text of 3000 words combined with an individually produced audiovisual presentation of 5 photographs or 5 min film.

The examination may be answered in Swedish or English.

Total evaluation:

When the student chooses the combination of text and audiovisual presentation (photographs or film) as assignment the text will represent 75% of the evaluation and the audiovisual presentation will represent 25%. Specific grading criteria applies to this choice (see below).

Course requirements:

To receive a final grade you must be registered and attend at least 80 % of the teaching sessions.

Grading of the examination is according to a scale of A to F. Students that receive a F or Fx (i.e. failed) have the possibility to complete an additional examination. The highest grade that can be awarded for this, and for examination assignments handed in after deadlines, is a C. (Exceptions can be made if there are special reasons and after a decision from the Director of Studies.)

Students who receive a Fx or F have the right to retake the examination at least four times as long as the course is offered and to gain the lowest grade of E. To receive a final grade for the course the grade of E or higher is required.

A student who has received an E may not retake the examination in order to gain a higher grade. A student who receives the grade of Fx or F twice on the same course has the right to request another examiner. The request must be made to the Department's governing body.

Grading criteria:

**A Excellent**

- \* An excellent and well written examination showing understanding of the empirical material and theory taken up on the course.
- \* A high level of originality and critical ability.
- \* A very high degree of comparative ability where literature from other courses is used in the argumentation.
- \* Independent reflections and interpretations based on the course literature.

**B Very good**

- \* A high degree of independent and original analysis and presentation of the course literature.
- \* A high degree of understanding of the relationship between theory and empirical material.
- \* A high degree of comparative ability.
- \* Well written and independent reflections and interpretations based strongly on the course literature.

**C Good**

- \* A thorough understanding of the literature and the most important issues taken up on the course.
- \* An ability to apply that understanding in a well structured argument and written form.
- \* An ability to contextualise and compare important parts of the course literature.
- \* A well written examination answer related to the examination assignment.

**D Satisfactory**

- \* A careful review of the relevant literature.
- \* Knowledge from obligatory lectures and seminars are used and integrated into the examination answer.
- \* The examination answer is well structured and well written.
- \* The student displays a good understanding of the literature and the most important empirical and theoretical questions discussed in the course.
- \* A well written examination related to the examination question.

**E Sufficient**

- \* Limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and central questions.
- \* Lack of adequate organization and structure.
- \* A number of mistakes in the examination answer.

\* Unstructured text.

#### FX Insufficient

- \* Limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and central questions.
- \* Lack of sufficient organization and structure.
- \* A number of mistakes in the examination answer.
- \* Unstructured text.

#### F Insufficient

- \* Very limited knowledge and understanding of the literature and central questions.
- \* A number of irrelevant and incorrect examination answers.
- \* Unstructured text impossible to grade.

Specific grading criteria added when assignment that consisting of both text and audiovisual presentation (photographs and film) has been chosen:

#### A Excellent

An excellent combination of text and audiovisual presentation that shows a high level of originality and critical reflection in relation to the issues illuminated in the course, and where additional audiovisual material from other courses or non-academic contexts have been analysed through a comparative perspective. The audiovisual material has a high level of both creative investigation and analytical character which is considerably enhanced in the text.

#### B Very good

A very well-worked combination of text and audiovisual presentation that shows a high level of independence and capacity for comparison in relation to the course content, and a good insight into how audiovisual media can be used as research method and analytical expression, and how they as a presentation can collaborate with an academic text.

#### C Good

An accurately thoughtful combination of text and audiovisual presentation that shows good understanding of the course content, and a good capacity to employ the audiovisual material through independently explorative and analytical means.

#### D Satisfactory

A combination of text and audiovisual material where the latter has the character of an illustration rather than investigation and analysis but where the text shows ample understanding and employment of the course reading, audiovisual material and obligatory sessions.

#### E Sufficient

A combination of text and audiovisual material where the latter has the character of an illustration rather than investigation and analysis but where the text shows sufficient understanding and employment of the course reading, audiovisual material and obligatory sessions.

#### FX Insufficient

A combination of text and audiovisual material where the relation between the two forms is weak and hereby shows an insufficient knowledge and understanding of the reading and central themes in the course.

#### F Insufficient

A combination of text and audiovisual material which lacks interconnection and hereby shows very limited knowledge and understanding of the reading and central themes in the course.

#### **Interim**

Students can request that an examination based on this course plan be held three times during a two-year period after the plan ceases to apply. Requests must be made to the Department's governing body. Other obligatory parts of the course are part of the examination.

#### **Required reading**

Banks, Marcus (2007). *Using Visual Data in Qualitative Research*, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi and Singapore: Sage.

Grasseni, Cristina (ed.) (2009). *Skilled Vision: Between Apprenticeship and Standards*, New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Gustafsson Reinius, Lotten (2009). 'Sensing Through White Gloves: On Congolese Objects in Swedish Sceneries' in *Senses & Society*, vol. 4, no.1, pp. 75-97.

Pink, Sarah (2006). *The Future of Visual Anthropology: Engaging the Senses*, London: Routledge (available as e-book).

Pinney, Christopher (2011). *Photography and Anthropology*, London: Reaktion Books.

Schneider, Arnd and Wright, Christopher (ed.) (2013). *Anthropology and Art Practice*, London: Bloomsbury (available as e-book).

Suhr, Christian and Willerslev, Rane (2012). 'Can Film Show the Invisible? The Work of Montage in Ethnographic Filmmaking' in *Current Anthropology*, vol. 53, no. 3, pp. 282-301.

The reading list may be changed during certain circumstances.