

COURSE CONTENT

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| Course Code | DD2014 (DD8012) |
| Course Title | Contemporary Curating |
| Pre-requisites | DD1003 or DD1004 |
| No of AUs | 3 |
| Contact Hours | 39 |

Course Aims

This course will introduce you to the basic precepts of contemporary curating. You will learn about the history of exhibitions, compare museum and independent curatorial approaches, and examine contexts/conditions specific to the curating of contemporary art, particularly in Singapore and the Southeast Asia region. This course is a foundation for further studies in curating practice and museum studies.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

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

1. Identify key issues in contemporary curating.
2. Write a basic exhibition proposal and author exhibition-related texts.
3. Apply exhibition-making concepts and display techniques to a practical curatorial project.
4. Present and discuss proposals, research relating to curating and exhibition-making, and finished projects, in a clear and cohesive manner.
5. Critique peers' and team-member's proposals and exhibition projects in a constructive manner.

Course Content

What's contemporary curating

You will learn about the different types of exhibitions, approaches to curating and the various roles involved in exhibition-making. You will be introduced to different types of spaces, institutional vs independent, white cube, site-specific, etc. There will be discussions of special issues such as conservation, collections management, art commissions.

History of Exhibitions

You learn about how international curating and exhibition practices have changed over the decades, as impacted by trends such as globalization and participatory art practices. Important case studies of contemporary art exhibitions will be highlighted and discussed.

Writing an Exhibition Proposal

You will learn what is a curatorial narrative and how to write a basic exhibition proposal, including concept, budget and timeline.

Writing about Art in an Exhibition Context

You will learn about various forms of art writing for exhibitions, from artwork labels to catalogue essays. You will be familiarised with the styles and formats through writing exercises.

Curating Practice

You will work in small teams to put up a mini exhibition. They will be introduced to the practical aspects and basic functions of exhibition organizing and gallery management through this process.

Class assignments

Assignments include writing and presenting an exhibition proposal, organizing a mini exhibition and putting together post-event documentation. These will be developed through class exercises, discussions, presentations exercises and peer/instructor feedback sessions.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

| Component | ILO Tested | Programme LO | Weighting | Team/ Individual |
|--|------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| Continuous Assessment Writing an Exhibition Proposal Art Writing exercises Class presentations | 1,4 | -- | 40 | Individual |
| Practical Project: Curate a mini exhibition and project documentation | 2,3,4 | -- | 40 | Team |
| Continuous Assessment: Participation | 5 | -- | 20 | Individual |

Reading and References

1. Altshuler, Bruce. *Salon to Biennial*. London; New York: Phaidon, 2008- 2013.
2. Altshuler, Bruce. *Biennials and Beyond*. London; New York: Phaidon, 2008- 2013.
3. Bourriaud, Nicolas. *Relational Aesthetics*. Dijon, France: Les Presses du Réel, 2002
4. Greenberg, Reesa. *Thinking about Exhibitions*. London; New York: Routledge, 1996.
5. Hoffman, Jens. *Ten Fundamental Questions of Curating*, Milan, Italy: Mousse Publishing, 2013
6. Hoffman, Jens. *The Next Documenta Should Be Curated by An Artist* (ed.). New York: e-Flux and Revolver, 2004
7. Marincola, Paula. *What Makes a Great Exhibition?* Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, 2006.
8. Obrist, Hans-Ulrich. *A Brief History of Curating*. Zurich, Switzerland: JRP Ringier, 2008.

Other selected readings

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned readings, activities, assignments, attend all classes punctually and complete all scheduled assignments by due dates. You are expected to take

responsibility to follow up with assignments and course related announcements. You are expected to participate in all project critiques, class discussions and activities.

(2) Punctuality

You are expected to be punctual for all classes. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be deemed as absent and will not be able to sign on the attendance register.

(3) Absenteeism

In-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your participation grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for in-class activities.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Planned Weekly Schedule*

*Subjected to adjustment by instructor according to students' progress, public holidays and unforeseeable circumstances.

| Week | Topic | Course LO | Readings/ Activities |
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| 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to Contemporary Curating and History of Exhibitions Overview of curating practice today and learning about the history of exhibitions. Learn about differences in types of exhibition spaces, approaches to curating and the different roles in making exhibitions and museum/gallery operations. | 1 | Introductory lecture, Lecture on Exhibition Histories Fieldtrip to a National Museum |

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| 4-5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curatorial Narratives and Exhibition Typologies <p>Understanding curatorial narratives such as themes, art genres, topics and issues. Learning about different types of exhibitions, their formats, structures, scale, contexts and audiences.</p> <p>Coming with exhibition concepts and developing ideas.</p> | 3, 4, 5 | <p>Lectures on Curatorial Narratives and Exhibition Typologies</p> <p>In-class Discussion of Exhibition Ideas</p> <p>Fieldtrip to Non-Traditional Exhibition Space</p> |
| 6-11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curatorial Project <p>Students will be put into teams to put together a mini exhibition, from selection of artwork to post-event documentation. They will have basic hands-on experience towards understanding the different roles and skills needed in exhibition-making and working in a gallery/museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition-Related Writing <p>Students will learn how to write a basic exhibition proposal and other texts such as artwork labels</p> | 2, 3, 4, 5 | <p>Practical Project</p> <p>Process will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing curatorial concept - Selection of artwork - Site inspection - Installation/De-installation (including logistics and design of display) - Post-event documentation <p>Writing Exercise 1: How to Write an Exhibition Proposal</p> <p>Writing Exercise 2: Writing Exhibition Texts</p> <p>Lectures on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection and Commission of Artworks - Public Programs and Education - Curatorial Strategies |
| 12-13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and Critique <p>Students will present their curatorial projects and interact in peer-feedback sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation and Archive <p>Different ways of documenting and archiving, for different audiences and purposes. Students will document their curating process and the final form of their mini exhibition.</p> | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 | <p>Tour of Mini Exhibitions</p> <p>Students will prepare a gallery talk and lead class through a tour of their exhibition project</p> <p>Documentation Assignment:</p> <p>Students will document their curatorial project in a suitable form, towards future access</p> <p>Fieldtrip to Private</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation/Ethics and other Special Issues <p>Final session to discuss conservation issues, ethical concerns and other current issues in contemporary curating.</p> | | Collection/Heritage Center |
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