

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**Arts and Heritage**

Name coordinator: Guido Goossens, email: [guido.goossens@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:guido.goossens@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Full period of this minor: 1-3

ECTS credits in total of this minor: 24/30

Language of instruction: English

Teaching methods: see course descriptions

Assessment methods: See course descriptions

Course period 1	ACU3005 <i>Arts and Culture: Policy and Politics (12 ECTS)</i>	course coordinator: Guido Goossens
Course period 2	ACU3004 Museum Meanings (12 ECTS)	Course coordinator: Vivan van Saaze
Course period 3	ACU3910 <i>Wicked problems: current issues in Policy, Art and Law (6 ECTS)</i>	Course coordinator: Emilie Sitzia

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**Course period 1**

**Arts and Culture: Policy and Politics**

Course code: ACU3005

Course period: 1

ECTS credits of this course: 12

Coordinator: Guido Goossens, email: [guido.goossens@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:guido.goossens@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

This is a joint course with the interfaculty minor *Art, Law and Policy Making*.

**Full course description**

What is art? What makes good art? Who decides what is good art? Is taste in art strictly subjective? Why and how should the government support or not support art and culture: which art, whose culture? How about cultural participation? Is art for the elite or for everyone? What are values of art and culture? Can art be used as an instrument, for instance to enhance social inclusion? What are possible economic benefits for governments to support arts and culture? Why are most artists poor, while some are flagrantly rich?

These are some of the questions tackled in this introductory course to Cultural Politics. Highly distinctive is the mix between need-to-know cultural theory and practice-based encounters with

professionals from the cultural sector during workshop-like lectures and fieldtrips. The course includes in-situ tutorials (e.g. at the Bonnefantenmuseum) and together with a team of fellow students you will work on a practice-based research project. The approach is international and comparative.

### **Course objectives**

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of basic theories and concepts on cultural politics;
- apply these theories and concepts to practical cases from the cultural sector;
- \* write an academic paper in which you critically reflect on these theories and concepts and their application in professional cultural practice;
- \* work together in a team on a practice-based research project

**Teaching methods:** lectures, tutorials, fieldtrips

**Assessment:** individual paper (take home exam), group paper, presentation, participation

**Keywords:** art, culture, cultural policy, cultural theory, art theory, art economy, museums, heritage, cultural sector

**Prerequisites:** n/a

A maximum number of 60 students will be admitted.

## Course period 2

### Museum Meanings

Course code: ACU3004

Course Period: 2

ECTS credits of this course: 12

Coordinator: Vivian van Saaze, email: [vivian.vansaaze@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:vivian.vansaaze@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

#### Full course description

The central focus of this course is on museums, museum education and the dynamic relation between museums and society. Museums had and still have various tasks such as collecting, conservation, research and education. However, there are many different types of museums and the contemporary museum differs from museums in the nineteenth century, which were mainly visited by the middle classes. Nowadays participation and reaching a broad and diverse audience are important for the legitimation of museums. In order to fulfill these new societal function museums changed their presentations from object centered to context and visitor centered and cultural or museum education has gained importance.

In this course students will study the historic development of the museum as an institution, museum architecture, organization, funding, exhibitions, education programs, information and websites, through reading, lectures, discussions and working visits to museums.

#### Course objectives

Students know, are able to identify and do understand different forms of museums;

Students know and understand main issues in museum studies and the historic development of museums;

Students know, understand are able to apply relevant learning and teaching theories in the context of museums;

Students are able to evaluate a museum exhibition;

Students are able to analyse debates with respect to cultural participation.

Teaching methods: Lectures and PBL Assessment methods: Presentation and paper

**Prerequisites:** n/a

A maximum number of 60 students will be admitted.

## Course period 3

### Wicked problems: current issues in Policy, Art and Law

Course code: ACU3910

Course period: 3

ECTS credits of this course: 6

Coordinator: Emilie Sitzia, FASoS, email: [emilie.sitzia@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:emilie.sitzia@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

This is a joint course with the interfaculty minor *Art, Law and Policy Making*.

#### Full course description

Cultural institutions today are at the heart of social, political, ethical and legal issues. How to deal with objects that were taken from communities or individual owners under circumstances that we currently find unacceptable? This question includes objects from former colonies, dependencies and territories under foreign occupation. When and to whom should objects be returned that came from former colonies and territories under foreign occupation (post-colonial challenges)? What to do with museum objects that have been taken from their owners in suspect or even unacceptable circumstances (looting by the Soviets and Nazis)? What to do with human remains (including objects made from human remains) that have entered museum collections? What is reparation, restitution and repatriation, and whose responsibility is it to implement it? How to respond to the call for cultural institutions to take a leading role in social justice matters? What is the role of ICOM in this case, and what is the role of governments in the case of government controlled museums?

This course focuses on three core wicked problems in the policy, art and law field. We question exhibitions in situations of coloniality, provenance research and restitution. These topics will be explored in relation to a particular case study. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach and builds on perspectives coming from academic fields such as (art) history, sociology, pedagogy, philosophy, law and critical museology as well as professional practices such as conservation, curatorship, policy, and education.

#### Course objectives

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of and insight into important issues in the fields of policy, politics of arts and heritage, museum studies, cultural education or curatorship related to the themes of the course
- Identify relevant stakeholders, actors and factors in diverse practices related to arts and heritage research
- Apply the knowledge gained on a practical case study

#### Teaching methods

Lectures, workshops

#### Assessment

participation, the students will choose their own case study and create a podcast reflecting on the case from the three perspectives (art, law, policy)

**Keywords:** museums and coloniality, dissonant heritage, reparation, restitution, repatriation, decolonizing the museum

### **Prerequisites**

Registration for ACU3910 is only allowed together with registration for modules ACU3005 (minor *Arts & Heritage*/Interfaculty minor *Art, Law and Policy Making*) in period 1 and ACU3004 (minor *Arts & Heritage*) or IER3004+MIN0002 (Interfaculty minor *Art, Law and Policy Making*) in period 2 or for MA AC Premaster students. The course is also open for students of the minor program 'Erfgoed en Publiek' of the Radboud University Nijmegen. A maximum number of 60 students will be admitted.