

Contemporary Art

Course Workload		Assessment form (examination/ graded test/ ungraded test)
ECTS	Hours	
3	108	Graded test

This course offers a critical history of interdisciplinarity in art and science. It traces how the relationship between artistic and scientific knowledge has been imagined and practiced from the Renaissance “universal genius” to Cold War cybernetics, the critical humanities turn of the 1990s, and the rise of new materialisms in the 2000s. The course demonstrates that interdisciplinarity is not a neutral category but a historically contingent method of organizing knowledge with cultural and political implications. Students will engage with key theoretical texts and case studies, while developing critical and creative responses through seminars and project work.

Course structure:

1. Origins of Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity

1.1. The birth of disciplines, Renaissance universalism, Romanticism and Gesamtkunstwerk

2. Cold War and Cybernetics

2.1. Cybernetics and interdisciplinarity in the West
2.2. Soviet science and art: cybernetics and space program

3. The Critical Humanities Turn in Art and Science

3.1. Situated knowledge and the “mangle of practice” as frameworks for art

4. The Rise of New Materialisms and the Postcritical Art-Science (2000s)

4.1. New Materialisms & Bioart I — Theory
4.2. New Materialisms & Bioart II — Cases & Critique

5. After Interdisciplinarity? Total Merging vs. Neo-Mediology

5.1. STEAM, Startupization, Mediologies

6. Project Clinic & Critical Mapping

6.1. From theory to practice: project methods and ethics; examples of critical reinterpretations