



Active and Blended Learning in the Humanities

Call for Proposals

Personal details

Applicant:

Aylin Kuryel

Department:

Literary and Cultural Analysis, Department of Literature and Linguistics

Project details

Project name:

Public Intervention as a Teaching Method

Motivation:

In a program such as Literary and Cultural Analysis, as well as many other programs in the Humanities, one of the main goals is to contemplate on the relationship between theory and practice; the ways in which theory can be translated into practice. When the students find ways to “implement” theory in their everyday lives, they become much more engaged in the program and pursue it with more enthusiasm and commitment. As an academic myself who is also involved in artistic and activist practices, I find it especially important for the Literary and Cultural Analysis students to develop their imaginations, discover their creative skills and think of ways in which they are involved in the society as active agents. Critical thinking skills, when accompanied by practical tasks which focus on interfering and transforming everyday life and public space, are enriched and strengthened. Therefore, designing and improving “Public Intervention” as a teaching method, in which the students are asked to form groups and organize events/situations/experiments in public space, in line with the theories addressed in class, will contribute to making students establish further links between theory and practice and involve in the learning process in a much more active way.

Intended outcomes:

Public Intervention as a learning method aims at triggering the students' imagination and creativity in order to translate theory into practice. It departs from an interdisciplinary framework in which the travel of concepts from one discipline to another is encouraged and the social and political aspect of the academic knowledge production is a constant concern. Through the Public Interventions method, the students are asked to create a situation through designing an experiment, writing a text/manifesto and handing out copies, intervening, adding something to the urban environment, interacting with people, using the city as an archive, in order to bring theory and practice together. They are asked to make pictures, videos, drawings, reports, and bring those to class where they can share them. The intended outcomes of this method is a heightened awareness of the social/political implications of academic knowledge production, the triggering of student's theoretical and practical skills and their ability to collaborate with each other, setting up examples of what the program and its members might achieve in the society and preparing the students for future tasks after graduation. This method also aims at designing new, creative, challenging and productive tasks within the learning environments. This method could be of interest to lecturers and students in cultural studies, literary studies, media studies, art history and philosophy.

Plan of action:

I have implemented the Public Intervention method in the elective course for the 2nd years, Against Culture, which aims to develop familiarity with the theoretical perspectives regarding modern and contemporary radical-political theory and 2nd year core course Cultural Analysis: Case Studies, which offers a general introduction in the theory and practice of cultural analysis. I am aiming to design the learning method in more detail to be implemented in the upcoming Case Studies course in 2020 and other possible courses where it would be relevant. For this reason, I will work on designing the method further and prepare a detailed manual, including the examples from previous courses where the method was used, the learning outcomes and motivations regarding the method, theoretical departure points and instructions to give the students, all of which can also be used by other lecturers in the context of other relevant courses. In addition, I find it crucial to set up a website where the Public Intervention Manual can be found, a selection of public interventions that were conducted by the students in previous years and the following year can be stored, together with short reports on their theoretical reflections on their interventions. This website can become an archive of the possible practical implementations of literary and cultural theory, to be used to introduce the program/university, and as a way for students to communicate with and be inspired by each other. In addition, the manual will be shared on the Blended Learning website (<http://icto.humanities.uva.nl/blended-learning/projecten/>), will be circulated in the relevant circles via email (ASCA, LCA, Media Studies, etc.), as well as will be announced it in the staff meetings I am involved in for further dissemination.

Execution:

Aylin Kuryel

Requirements:

I will need to collect the visual and textual material from the students of the previous years in order to reflect upon and archive their public interventions. Eventually, I will need technical support to build the website where videos, photos and theoretical reflection texts of the interventions will be collected and commented upon.

Dissemination:

The Public Intervention as a Learning Method manual I will prepare will be a helpful way to disseminate the motivations and instructions on how to use this method and how to reflect upon its outcomes. Moreover, the website that will bring selected examples together will be a productive way to inform new students or other educational units about the program and the courses, encourage reflection on the relationship between theory and practice, as well as seeing students as active agents in the society. I will also work on spreading the gained knowledge and experiences through the link to the website.

Timeline

May 2019: Collecting previous textual and visual material on students' public interventions in Against Culture and Cultural Analysis: Case Studies + Reflecting upon previous experiences to design the method further

June - August 2019: Preparing the Public Intervention as a Learning Method manual + Building of the website/archive

Budget:

5 hours: Collecting previous textual and visual material on students' public interventions in Against Culture and Cultural Analysis: Case Studies + Reflecting upon previous experiences to design the method further

20 hours: Designing and improving the method in detail + Preparing the Public Intervention as a Learning Method manual to be used next year in Case Studies course and in other courses where it is relevant

10 hours: Building of the website/archive (2019-20)

35 hours x € 81 = € 2835