* Academic content in course
An increased focus on the visual, material and embodied has been of crucial importance for much of the innovative work done in the humanities and social sciences since the turn of the century. This PhD course will give training in how to do research that takes the role of the visual and the senses seriously. Building on cutting edge research in method and methodology, the students will gain an overview of recent developments in visual and multi-sensory methods. In that context, students will be given opportunity to focus on a particular sense or range of senses and individually or collaboratively employ methods relevant to working with these senses using equipment such as video/action cams, sound equipment and GPS trackers. We will also address ethical issues, technical challenges and possible ways of representing sensory data in different publication channels.

* Learning outcome
Knowledge
Upon completion of the course, the student:

- has in-depth knowledge about recent developments in methodology and epistemology
- has an understanding of the challenges connected to the gap between sensory data and textual representations
- has in-depth knowledge about relevant ethical questions concerning both the interaction between researcher and research participants and the use and representation of research data
- has a critical understanding of the role of visual and multi-sensory methods and the ways these can be combined with other methodological approaches to generate innovative research

Skills
Upon completion of the course, the student:

- can place different methodological approaches in the context of recent transdisciplinary developments such as the spatial, material and affective turn, in relation to questions of mobility and embodiment, and arts-based research and aesthetics
- can evaluate practical aspects related to the use of different methods and their combination in the context of completing a doctoral dissertation
- can explore and strengthen the role of different research participants in the research process with respect to issues of diversity and hierarchy (related to age/childhood, ethnicity, gender, sensory handicaps, etc.)
can actively make use of ethical guidelines and complete necessary applications processes

can analyse and contextualise visual and multi-sensory data according to relevant (inter)disciplinary and methodological frameworks

Competencies

Upon completing the course, the student:

- can employ different technologies to collect visual and multi-sensory data, with an awareness of issues of data storage and anonymization
- can place and critically evaluate other sense-oriented research and communicate this to other academics in and beyond their own disciplines
- can critically reflect on the role of embodiment and the senses in research and academia and contribute to methodological and theoretical development
- can maintain and contribute to the development of high ethical standards that take issues specific to visual and multi-sensory methods into account

* Learning activities

The course will be based on the active involvement of all participants, including teachers, guest lecturers and students. Rigorous reading of relevant literature, practical explorations of different methods as well as individual and/or group based presentations of different approaches are mandatory parts of this course. Individual students take main responsibility for developing their research skills and general competencies. This implies a high degree of preparation before the course meets, and active involvement during the course, including response to and collaboration with the course’s participants. The course will combine lectures with group work and practical explorations of different methods.

* Participation/Compulsory work requirements

Obligatory activities will include at least one practical exploration of a method that will be presented to the rest of the course in a digital / performative format. This and other obligatory activities will be further specified in the course syllabus.

* Forms of assessment

Participants will produce an essay/a multimedial work combining text and sensory data. The essay must comply to formal standards of research articles. The essay/multimedial work will be assessed as passed / not passed. It must be passed for the course to be acknowledged. A passed essay/multimedial work corresponds to a grade of B or better on the Norwegian higher education character scale. The essay will be examined by an internal and an external examiner.

* Literature

Required:


Paterson, M., & Dodge, M. (2012). *Touching space, placing touch*. Farnham: Ashgate. (only parts of the book, as specified in the curriculum)


Recommended:


Part of study

This is an elective course offered by the PhD programme in Culture Studies suitable for students in all PhD programmes at USN and international PhD students.