

ARTS POLITICS (MA)

Department Website (<http://tisch.nyu.edu/art-public-policy/>)

NYSED: 31073 HEGIS: 1099.00 CIP: 50.9999

Program Description

This Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Arts Politics combines an administrative home within Tisch with key partnerships across schools to offer a spectrum of interdisciplinary courses. The curriculum examines, in an activist key, the relation between art and society and the role of the artist in civic life. Art is treated as providing a particular lens through which the social world can be understood and as a medium of cultural intervention in political processes. The M.A. combines a suite of core courses with relevant electives drawn from across the University. Students within the program attend classes with those who have related arts interests in other University programs. The program provides students with the opportunity to come together to critically reflect on the discourses and practical strategies that issue from the ability of art to intervene in and transform the social world. Arts politics considers art as both a way of knowing and as a kind of action, as an invitation to claim artistic citizenship, and as a means to democratize the public sphere.

Arts politics attends to both formal and informal political processes that bear on the production, dissemination, and reception of the arts. It integrates approaches from the humanities, social sciences, and the arts themselves. It studies governmental and policy processes, the institutional ecology, and political economy of the arts. It employs perspectives that understand how to decode cultural meanings, how social movements are formed, and how to read the esthetic dimension of contemporary politics. Through official patronage and censorship, celebration and loathing, and affirmation and critique of prevailing values, art has long been imbricated and implicated in the political. Yet arts politics is never fixed; its historical and cross-cultural variation helps to understand what possibilities exist for civically engaged artists working in the present.

In the United States, cultural policy is typically seen as being weakly developed, and the skills artists use to get their work into the world often rest on tacit knowledge. Art is rarely bestowed with official status or sanction, which can make its social or political impact all the more challenging to discern. Given the often subtle ways in which art interacts with and acts upon the social world, its political value and efficacy can be difficult to assess. Alternatively, when art itself is grasped epistemologically, as a way of knowing the world, a distinctive array of art's social effects become legible. The M.A. in arts politics program provides a critical and analytic setting in which artists and others with a social commitment to the arts can develop the means for an appraisal of the political implications and social significance of their work.

Admissions

All graduate applicants to the Tisch School of the Arts are required to submit the General Graduate Application (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/generalapplicationrequirements/>), as well as a department-specific portfolio or creative supplement. Each of these can be submitted online.

See Graduate Admissions (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

For international applicants, see International Applicant Requirements (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/Internationalapplicantrequirements/>). Applicants with international credentials should be sure to check to see if their credentials are equivalent to an American Bachelor's degree (<https://tisch.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/USbaequivalency/>) before applying.

Program Requirements

The program requires the completion of 32 credits, comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
ASPP-GT 2001	Issues in Arts Politics	4
ASPP-GT 2002		4
ASPP-GT 2003	Graduate Colloquium	2-4
ASPP-GT 2004	Graduate Fieldwork	2-3.5
Electives ¹		
Other Elective Credits		20
Total Credits		32

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At least two electives must be taken in the department. The remaining three electives may also be taken in the department, or any graduate level courses in departments across the university.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
ASPP-GT 2001	Issues in Arts Politics	4
ASPP-GT 2002		4
ASPP-GT 2003	Graduate Colloquium	2-4
ASPP-GT XXXX	Arts Politics Elective	4
Elective (must count toward Theory requirement)		4
Credits		18
2nd Semester/Term		
ASPP-GT 2004	Graduate Fieldwork	2-3.5
ASPP-GT XXXX	Arts Politics Elective	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		14
Total Credits		32

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have:

1. A critical understanding of the relation between art and society and the role of the artist in civic life, including the political implications and social significance of their own work so that they can activate or sustain its impact and efficacy.
2. The leadership skills, tactical and strategic means to create new institutional venues and public forums for creative work and to become advocates for the arts from within the arts.

3. Proficiency in oral and written communication, rhetorical prowess, synthetic capacity, dialogic and critical abilities, projection and imagination of possible futures.
4. Mastery in information literacy and the technological and artistic tools relevant to the field.
5. Capacity to remain engaged in practical solutions to concrete problems in the art world while imagining and developing alternative forms for the future.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Tisch Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the Tisch academic policy page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/arts/academic-policies/>).