

NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA
DI BELLE ARTI

SUMMMER COURSES

A.Y. 2025-26
SYLLABUS

Curatorial studies and
exhibition design

1st session: June 30th – July 10th 2026

www.naba.it



Curatorial studies and exhibition design

School: Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano (NABA)

Address: Via Darwin 20, 20143 Milan, Italy

Phone: + 39.02.973.192 *E-mail:* summer@naba.it

Course Structure: 45 hours – 9 lesson days

ECTS: 3 ECTS credits*

Intermediate level

*ECTS credits only awarded to university students or participants who are completing or have completed a university or academic study path

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers students a structured path to develop a curatorial project in an independent way.

Starting from theoretical lessons on the role of a curator in our contemporary society, the classes will be leading to a complete project due to the support of practical tasks - from research and production of a conceptual framework, to organization and display.

A special attention will be paid to the aspects related to the Exhibition Design from a theoretical and a practical point of view.

During the course, students will work on a personal project.

In addition to the classes held in the Academy, the course will include educational outings in order to visit exhibitions and contemporary art spaces in Milan.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course has been designed to provide international students the necessary tools to understand the role of the curator. Students will develop the skills to identify different approaches in the contemporary curatorial art system, gain awareness on how to consider art works in relation to the space where they are displayed and, last but not least, develop independently a curatorial project.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

This course is intended for students who have some background in contemporary art with a good knowledge of the 20th century art history.

Motivation and curiosity will be considered a plus.

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OUTPUT

Upon successful completion of this course, students will gain knowledge of key curatorial theories and practices. In addition, they will get familiar with the theoretical and practical basics of Exhibition Design: they will be able to conceive and submit a little project proposal.

LIST OF MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- A personal laptop/tablet (not mandatory, but highly recommended).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Attendance will be taken every class period. On the last day of classes, instructors will issue a Certificate of successful attendance only to all students who completed at least 80% of the course.

COURSE POLICY

The Faculty of NABA takes Academic integrity seriously. Instances of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism won't be tolerated. Mobile phones will be kept switched off all the time during class. Use of laptop during classes for personal purposes is forbidden.

TEACHING METHODS

Learning by doing: a mix of theoretical lessons, field trips and practical workshops.

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Grading

Total number of ECTS assigned for the successful completion of the course: 3 ECTS

GRADING SYSTEM

GRADING WEIGHTS	GRADING SCALE				
1. Attendance 30%	Excellent = 90-100				
2. Participation and creative process 40%	Good = 80-89				
3. Final work / final presentation 30%	Average = 70-79				
TOTAL 100%	Below Average = 60-69				
	Poor = 59 or below				
	EXCELLENT 90 -100%	GOOD 80 – 89%	AVERAGE 70 – 79%	BELOW AVERAGE 60 – 69%	POOR BELOW 60%
Attendance (30%)	On time, perfect attendance	Seldom late: attended between 95% and 90 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 90 % and 85 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 85% and 80% of the course	Frequently late, attended less than 80% of the course: FAILED
Participation and Creative Process (40 %)	Demonstrates strong understanding of the topic & thorough, creative research	Shows good grasp of the topic & good research	Exhibits average comprehension of the topic & average research	Shows some awareness of the topic & below average awareness of research	Has shallow insight into the topic & poor grasp of research
Original Project (Final work/ Final presentation) (30%)	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits below average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits poor analysis of concepts & production of original proposal

Contacts

Curatorial studies and exhibition design

1st week

COURSE SCHEDULE*

DAY		LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 1 - Tuesday	NABA Staff	Welcome and Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher / students' self-presentation.• Introduction to Curatorial Studies: the curator's role in recent art history.
Day 2 - Wednesday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The contexts of curating: where and how contemporary art is displayed (museums, galleries, art fairs and many more).
Day 3 - Thursday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exhibitions that made history.• Individual exercise and discussion.
Day 4 - Friday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis of an exhibition: the steps that lead to a complete project.• Individual exercise and discussion.

*The Academy reserves the right to:

- amend or cancel courses, change course location or substitute course leaders, professors, guests, visits location;
- make any changes that in our absolute discretion we consider necessary or appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to any other circumstances that are beyond our control.

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2st week

COURSE SCHEDULE*

DAY	LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 5 - Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to look at an exhibition: a focus on art writing and art publishing.• Individual exercise and discussion.
Day 6 - Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Exhibition Design #1: a theoretical overview and some historical examples.
Day 7 - Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Exhibition Design #2: practical strategies, methodologies and recent examples.
Day 8 - Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>*Field trip</i>: visit to a museum / gallery in town + discussion about contents and display strategies of the show.
Day 9 - Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Examination and diploma awarding.

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