

CEAD 1001

THEORIES & CONCEPTS IN CRITICAL CULTURES



Module Lead Larissa Vilhena BA MA PhD

Duration 12 week course

Who is this course for?

This module is available part-time to students who already have a basic knowledge of visual culture, and have an interest in expanding their understanding of twentieth century art, design and visual culture. The course involves analysis of visual images, library research and group based discussion. This module is mandatory for students who want to complete the University Certificate in Visual Art Practice. The format includes a one hour lecture followed by seminars where students are encouraged to discuss and engage with ideas.

Course content

The module will focus on approaches to visual culture, examine key moments in modernism and consider themes and concerns within contemporary visual culture. The course will primarily focus on developments in the twentieth century but some historical material is also covered. It will show how modernity influenced visual culture and cover the development of new mediums such as lens based technology and cultural institutions within the modern era. The course will provide students with an opportunity to develop their knowledge of visual culture through observation, research and analysis of visual material and key texts. Individuals who wish to become familiar with current discourse and the language and ideas underpinning contemporary visual culture will find this course relevant. Students who opt for assessment will be required to attend tutorials and submit a written assignment.

Subject and themes that feature within this module

- What is art history
- What is visual culture
- Critical terms of modernism and modernity
- Realism, Modernism and Modernity in 19th century art
- Industrialisation and the rise of modernist design
- Realism, Modernism and the emergence of the new Irish state
- The theme of landscape in visual art*
- Post-colonialism and De-colonialism

Technologies

- The photograph and mass production
- The ethics of images

Display

- The neutrality of the museum display
- Archive and memory

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to

- Describe the key theories and ideas that inform art, design and visual culture in the modern period
- Outline a variety of theoretical and methodological tools that can be applied to the study of visual culture
- Show insight into the nature of museum display
- Critically analyse an artwork using a variety of criteria including the social context in which it is created, the cultural meanings it embodies, the style of the work and the intentions of the artist or designer
- Research and present a written assignment including bibliography and appropriate references to key texts

Assessment

Students intending to take assessment will be required to complete one written assignment for submission at the end of the module. Group tutorials on research and writing essays will take place in trimester 1. The module lecturer will provide students with feedback on their learning and assignments.