



MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Art in the Contemporary World “Key Theories 1: 20th Century Foundations”

Credits	5	Course	MA ACW
Level	9	Faculty	VISUAL CULTURE
Semester	1	Module Coordinator	Declan Long/ Francis Halsall

Synopsis

This module focuses on those key theoretical paradigms from the 20th Century that are foundational for Contemporary Art Discourse. Students will engage in some of the major intellectual movements that emerged in the contexts of modernity and postmodernity. Indicative content includes key terms such as Formalism, Structuralism, The Social History of Art, Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology amongst others and the writings of Rosalind Krauss, Jacques Lacan, TJ Clark, Roland Barthes and Maurice Merleau-Ponty.

What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

1. RESEARCH those key theoretical paradigms from the 20th Century that inform current debates in contemporary art
2. ANALYZE: the discursive foundations and coordinates for their own intellectual position; in particular those from the 20th Century;
3. COMMUNICATE: a good knowledge of important theoretical paradigms and key figures from the 20th Century and relate these to their own work.

How will I learn?

	HRS/ Semesters
Lectures	0
Seminar	12 hours (6 weeks, 2 hours)
Specified Learning Activities	36 hours (6/ week, reading)
Autonomous Student Learning	52
Total Workload	100

How will I be assessed?

	% of Final Grade	Timing
Written assessment	100	End of Module

What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Essay resubmission

Remediation

If you fail this module you may repeat, resit, or substitute where permissible

Am I eligible to take this module?

Pre-Requisite:

Required : none

Co-Requisite: none

Incompatibles: n/a

Prior Learning

Requirements:

Excluded:

Recommended: Students should aim to familiarize themselves with the theory under discussion, either viewing some other primary works in addition to the selected text, or undertaking secondary readings so as to introduce and contextualise the issue that we will discuss. Preparation may include a guide to contemporary theorists such as one of these:

- Costello, Diarmuid and Jonathan Vickery, *Key Thinkers on Art* (London: Berg, 2007)
- Murray, Chris (ed.) *Key Writers on Art: The Twentieth century* (London: Routledge, 2003).

The Routledge Critical Thinkers series is also useful, providing substantial but clear guides to many of the theorists we will discuss.

- <http://www.routledge.com/books/series/SE0370/>

When and where is this module offered?

Timetabling information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates only to 2014/15 and is subject to change.

Semester 1, Friday mornings, weeks 1-6

For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements consult your course handout