

Art & Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism

PGACW-6

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	MA Art in the Contemporary World MFA Fine Art
NQF level	9	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Francis Halsall & Declan Long
Semester	1	Module Team	Visual Culture team
Contact	Declan Long longd@ncad.ie or Francis Halsall halsalf@ncad.ie		

Introduction

This module concentrates on the many forms of criticism that are relevant to the theory and practice of contemporary art. The classes will address the conventions and characteristics of very different modalities of critical practice, ranging from long-form academic essays to the types of critical essays and reviews found in specialist art magazines, to forms of art criticism that take place in the pages of general interest publications (such as newspapers) and the forms of criticism that take place within the broadcast media. Addressing both contemporary and historical examples, these seminars allow students to look carefully at writing style as well as to understand contexts of writing, whether institutional, social or historical. Weekly readings of key critical writings are set, with each class based around a close-reading of the chosen text.

What will I learn?

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

- Develop an expanded understanding of the range and style of forms of criticism relevant to contemporary art
- Gain knowledge and expertise in assessing how specific forms of criticism operate within a specific cultural or professional context, and of how they relate to particular sets of social and historical conditions.
- Develop the skills to write criticism in specific ways according to the conventions of defined writing contexts.

How will I learn?

Learning tool	Hours
Seminars	24 (12 weeks x 2 hours)
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	40
Total Workload	100

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year

How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Assignment	100%	End of module
Total	100%	

What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Students who fail to complete the module assignment will be given the opportunity to sit an exam at the end of the semester. If at that point students fail the module, they may be able to repeat or substitute where permissible.

Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the semester, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of Semester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, you are invited to discuss your experience on the module with your lecturers at any point during the year. You can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate your comments to the staff.

For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements consult your Programme or Module Handbook