

Critical Practice Seminar

PGFA1008

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits	5	Programme	MFA Fine Art
NQF level	9	School	School of Fine Art
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Sarah Durcan
Trimester	Summer	Module Team	MFA Team
Contact	Dr Sarah Durcan durcans@staff.ncad.ie ; fineart@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This 5 credit 'seminar' module forms part of a Critical Practice 'Intensive' offered to postgraduate students registered at NCAD and mid-career professionals who wish to develop their understanding and engagement with contemporary issues in art and design. It involves a full week of onsite learning with prior preparation and subsequent documentation.

A Critical Practice 'Intensive' is offered in late August / early September each year in conjunction with a partner institution. Such organisations will include art and design museums such as the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

The teaching team is formed of NCAD tutors, professionals from the partner organisation, and a guest tutor who is a high-profile practitioner in the field. The student group will form a learning community with diverse expertise and skills across art and design.

The Critical Practice 'Intensive' - seminar module will be focused on critical examination of the theme (see below) through textual and filmic sources relating to that theme. Students will contribute to the content of the daily seminar meeting during the week-long Critical Practice 'Intensive' by selecting and introducing key texts for discussion by all participants. Each will be responsible for the generation of a text for publication on the Critical Practice 'Intensive' website. This may result in a thematic 'reader'.

The institutional context will encourage attention to public engagement and, if appropriate, the Critical Practice 'Intensive' may result in a public event and/or display.

2. What will I learn?

On completing the Critical Practice Seminar, participants will have:

1. Tested and extended their skills of analysis at a high level by examining current expressions of Critical Theory in relation to the theme of the Critical Practice 'Intensive'.

2. Selected and led discussion of key source/s in a one or more seminars, thereby developing skills as an explicator, interlocutor and facilitator of high-level discussion of topical art and design ideas and practices.
3. Developed the writing skills required to share and critique complex and topical ideas and practices for different audiences.
4. Developed editing skills at the level required for publication.

Module content

Each year, the *Critical Practice 'Intensive'* (formed of this 'Seminar' module and co-requisite 'Workshop' module) will be dedicated to a specialist theme concerned with aspects of public knowledge and social engagement in relation to topical matters of concern. Themes will be announced each Spring and will change on an annual basis. Typical themes might include 'Self-determination', 'Dark heritage' Culture of/after Conflict', 'Ecological Prototyping', 'Democratising AI', etc.

The themes will be proposed by the teaching team on the basis of their topicality, and be subject to the approval of the NCAD's Academic Council and the agreement of the partner institution, as will the selection of the high-profile artist or designer. Typically, the theme will have a strong relationship to the research interests and public engagement programme of the partner institutions.

3. How will I learn?

This module will be taught in the form of a seminar based on close critical analysis of texts, images and artworks. Students will be required to lead discussion on material that they have selected for discussion in advance. In this way students will learn skills of critical analysis and also acquire the experience of leading a seminar. Full guidance about seminar technique will be provided.

Learning tool	Hours
Seminar	10 (2 days at 5 hours per day)
Specified Learning Activities	40
Autonomous Student Learning	50
Total Workload	100

4. What learning supports are provided?

The module will be supported by a VLE before the onsite learning takes place to allow students to prepare and share material in advance and access key content (readings, films, plans, etc.). During the seminar the library as required. At the end of the onsite intensive phase of the module, students will be required to document their research and writing on a dedicated website or an established platform like Wakelet. Instruction will be provided.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

This module is available to postgraduate students registered at NCAD and to qualified applicants who are not currently registered at the College. The latter may be graduates with art and design qualifications who are looking to undertake postgraduate study or mid-career professionals who wish to develop their understanding and engagement with contemporary issues in art and design.

Students who are not currently registered with NCAD will be required to make an application which demonstrates evidence of a current practice art and design and a statement outlining their reasons for wishing to undertake this *Critical Practice 'Intensive'*. Typically, they will have completed a BA degree in a field related to the theme of the Critical Practice 'Intensive'. The selection of suitably qualified candidates will be made by the academic staff teaching on the Critical Practice Intensive.

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	To study this module, students must have successfully completed PGFA1007 Critical Practice Workshop.
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

6. How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Short for text for publication on the website	100%	Typically completed within two weeks of the intensive.
Total	100%	

Contributing to a collection of texts, students will use peer assessment tools such as paired marking which ask participants to evaluate their own work and that of their peers against NCAD's published assessment criteria. Feedback will be also provided by the NCAD tutors.

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Short for text for publication on the website	1-4

7. Feedback, results and grading

Postgraduate students who are registered at NCAD will elect to undertake this module as an option and as such it will contribute to their overall profile of grades in any given trimester.

8. What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

For students registered to PG programmes at NCAD who do not complete this module successfully, resit opportunities will be provided in the next trimester.

9. When and where is this module offered?

Learning will take place at NCAD and/or on the site of the partner institution.

10. 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 year, 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 Trimester 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**