

# Key Theories 1 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century Foundations

## PGVC1005

### MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b>	5	<b>Programme</b>	MFA / MA Art in the Contemporary World
<b>NQF level</b>	9	<b>School</b>	School of Visual Culture
<b>Stage</b>	1	<b>Module Co-ordinator</b>	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long
<b>Trimester</b>	1	<b>Module Team</b>	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
<b>Contact</b>	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: <a href="mailto:visualculture@staff.ncad.ie">visualculture@staff.ncad.ie</a>		
<b>Responsibility</b>	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

## 1. Introduction

This module has two areas of focus:

- 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 Marxism, Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology.
- Key contemporary theoretical paradigms that inform Contemporary Art Discourse. Students will engage in some of the major theories that inform writing and thinking about art today. Indicative content includes key terms such as Materialism, Realism, Speculative Philosophies, Nihilism, Queer-Theory and Critical Race Theory.

The aims of this module are to:

1. Introduce some key theoretical paradigms from both the 20th and 21st Century that inform current debates in contemporary art.
2. Analyse those paradigms and consider their relevance for contemporary discourse and practice.
3. Consider how key ideas can be critiqued, deconstructed and decolonized
4. Help students consider the relevance of important theoretical paradigms and key figures from the 20th Century and contemporary thought for their own ideas and practice.

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

## 2. What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH demonstrate a working knowledge of those key theoretical paradigms from both the 20th and 21st Century that inform current debates in contemporary art.
2. ANALYZE the discursive foundations and coordinates for their own intellectual position.
3. ANALYZE key ideas from the perspectives of critique, deconstruction and decolonization
4. COMMUNICATE a good knowledge of important theoretical paradigms and key figures from the 20th Century and contemporary thought and relate these to their own work.

### Module content

To reflect the changing nature of contemporary theories and debates the specific module content changes according to the themes that are deemed to be most relevant to contemporary thought and practice at the time of delivery. At all times there will be careful consideration of the place and relevance of art in the contemporary world.

In the past discussions have included the writings of thinkers such as: Merleau-Ponty; Lacan; Žižek; Deleuze & Guattari; Meillassoux; Buck-Morss; Butler; Harraway.

## 3. How will I learn?

The classes are student centred discussions based on close analysis and critical reflection of key theoretical texts and positions.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led tutorials and classes	24
Specified Learning Activities	24
Autonomous Student Learning	52
<b>Total Workload</b>	<b>100</b>

## 4. What learning supports are provided?

This module is supported by a dedicated VLE (Canvas or Google Classroom) in which bibliographic material, set readings, assignments and other supporting material is shared. Key materials in the NCAD library have been identified to support learning on this module. Support for technical training in key skills such as sound recording and editing is provided through LinkedIn Learning online tutorials.

## 5. Am I eligible to take this module?

### Module Requisites and Incompatibles

<b>Pre-requisites</b>	None
<b>Co-requisites</b>	None

<b>Incompatibles</b>	None
<b>Prior learning</b>	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.
<b>Recommended</b>	None

## 6. How will I be assessed?

Students work in groups and individually to make a presentation on a key theme of the seminar. This presentation may be a piece of writing, installation, or other type of project that effectively articulates the research theme in a (quasi) public manner. Students are supported in seminar discussions during this process.

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Essay or equivalent (typically a piece of critical writing c. 3000 words)	100%	All work to be submitted by the end of Trimester 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Essay or equivalent (typically a piece of critical writing c. 3000 words)	All learning outcomes

## 7. Feedback, results and grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

Feedback is given by written assessment sheets and face to face discussion.

## 8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of the trimester to students who do not complete all assessments.

## 9. When and where is this module offered?

This module is offered in Trimester 1, on campus.

## 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. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

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

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