

# Art & Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism

## PGVC1006

### MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>ECTS credits<sup>1</sup></b>	5	<b>Programme</b>	MA / MFA Art in the Contemporary World
<b>NQF level</b>	9	<b>School</b>	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 concentrates on the many forms of criticism and critical practice 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.

Each year, classes follow a chosen theme e.g. ‘the voice’.

The aims of this module are to:

1. Introduce students to the diverse styles, forms and modes of criticism relevant to contemporary art.
2. Expand students’ knowledge and expertise in analysing specific forms of criticism and how they function within specific contexts and social and historical conditions.
3. Develop the skills to write criticism in specific ways according to the conventions of defined writing contexts.

## 2. What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH: Demonstrate an expanded understanding of the range and style of forms of criticism relevant to contemporary art.

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

2. ANALYSE: Assess how specific forms of criticism operate within a specific cultural or professional context; and analyse how they relate to particular sets of social and historical conditions.
3. COMMUNICATE: Demonstrate the skills to write criticism in specific and appropriate ways according to the conventions of defined writing contexts.

### Module content

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

### 3. How will I learn?

Students will participate in seminars and undertake group and individual project work (such as writing projects.)

Students should be prepared to read and write extensively and participate fully in all course activities including visits.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures	0
Seminars	24
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	40
<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.

Students will be presented with models of practice for analysis and discussion in class.

### 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?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Assessment of process and practice through writing activities (or equivalent text based practice such as recorded voice), typically amounting to a total of 2-3000 words	100%	A specified portfolio of work (writing or equivalent) is submitted by the end of the trimester.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Portfolio of writing (2-3000 words)	All learning outcomes

## 7. Feedback, results and grading

### Grading

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

## 8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of autumn Trimester to students who do not complete all assessments in that Trimester.

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

On campus, Trimester 1

## 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**