

Dissertation DHPG-10

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	30	Programme	MA Design History and Material Culture
NQF level	9	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Lisa Godson
Trimester	Autumn FT / Summer and Autumn yr 2 PT	Module Team	Dr Paul Caffrey, Hilary O'Kelly, Dr Lisa Godson
Contact	Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	NCAD Academic Council / School of Visual Culture		

Introduction

The culmination of the Design History and Material Culture MA is the delivery of a major piece of writing in the form of an MA dissertation of 15-18,000 words.

This module builds on specific skills and experiences offered by other modules on the MA. It is also an opportunity to make an original contribution to the field of study. This might take the form of a dissertation which examines a subject which has not been studied by others in depth before; or it might take the form of a critique of existing concepts and approaches.

In the DHPG-9 'Research Design' module students will have made a research proposal for a project of an appropriate level of complexity and challenge. They will have also been allocated a tutor who will act as the principal supervisor for the dissertation. In DHPG-10 they will produce the thesis outlined in DH9 and will continue to work with students through this module in the form of one-to-one tutorials.

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What will I learn?

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

CONDUCT original research employing diverse forms of primary evidence;
 ANALYSE that evidence in ways that allow for sophisticated arguments to be developed;
 DEPLOY appropriate theories and concepts employed in Design Historical and Material Culture studies and, when appropriate, other fields;
 ENGAGE critically with the work of other scholars in the field of study;
 MANAGE the complex task of researching and writing a long-form text (a dissertation);
 COMMUNICATE findings in ways which demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of design and/or the material world

Module content

How will I learn?

In addition to the individual tutorials described above, students will make use of a range of appropriate archives and research libraries and sources.

Credits

Learning tool	Hours
Tutorials	3-5 meetings
Autonomous Student Learning	
Total Workload	600

What learning supports are provided?

Students are supported by regular one-to-one tutorials with their supervisor. In the latter phases of the project students will supply a draft version of individual chapters or the entire thesis for feedback before completion and assessment

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 be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Dissertation	100%	End of autumn trimester FT / end of autumn trimester year 2 PT
Total	100%	

The module is assessed on the dissertation. It is assessed using the NCAD grade descriptors. High scoring work will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the research question and make reference to a broad range of theories and historical writing on the history of design and material culture. Connections will also be made with key texts and beyond, demonstrating an engagement with library and archival sources. The dissertation will be questioning, intellectually ambitious and reflective.

Feedback, results and grading

The work will be assessed employing the College's Grade Assessment criteria (see the programme handbook).

Written feedback will be given at the end of the module.

What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided to students who do not complete all assessments, but students will not be able to qualify for the award on completion of this programme until the learning outcomes of this module have been met.

Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-Requisite: Successful completion of DHPG-9

Co-Requisite: None

Incompatibles: n/a

Prior Learning

Requirements: None

Excluded: None

Recommended:

When and where is this module offered?

As a dissertation, this module is a significant independent project supported by tutorials (and DHPG9).

A FT student undertakes this work in the autumn trimester of the 12 month programme. A PT student undertakes this work in the summer and autumn trimesters of the 24 month programme.

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.

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