

Futures

DHPG5

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	MA Design History and Material Culture
NQF level	9	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Rachel O Dwyer
Trimester	summer	Module Team	Dr Rachel O Dwyer
Contact	Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	NCAD Academic Council / School of Visual Culture		

Introduction

In this module, students will examine the ways in which design – in various contexts – makes and has made claims on the future. Recognising that design – as currently understood and practiced – is itself a product of modernity and has, historically, claimed to serve progress, this module allows for examination of historical constructions of the future, as well as current expressions of prognostication, forecasting and futurology. It will also allow for catastrophic images of the future in design and popular discourse to be examined, alongside claims about the progressive nature of design.

Students will be able to select the content of this module from a list of choices. When offered as a choice, the content will be different in each set of classes, each will meet the same broad academic needs and learning outcomes. This allows students to develop a **specialist** expertise over the course of a number of modules (DHPG4, DHPG5, DHPG7 and DHPG10). For instance, students electing to specialise in dress and fashion will have the opportunity to explore the *Fashion Futures*. In this case, classes could include study of modernism in fashion design; fashion forecasting and the fashion cycle; intelligent fabrics; smart-wearables; post-humanist ideas of the body; as well as self-conscious disavowals of the future by advocates of tradition.

At the same time, this module is an **option** in the sense that students might elect to take this module or achieve the necessary credits by taking the 5 credit 'Design for Change' module offered by the School of Design or by taking a 5 credit module offered by MA Art in the Contemporary World. This module is also available to other post-graduate students on other MA programmes at NCAD.

What will I learn?

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

- i. ASSESS critically the claims made by designers and design theorist to anticipate and shape the future;
- ii. EXPLORE the effects of technological innovation and application on design and society;
- iii. COMMUNICATE these critical perspectives in an appropriate textual form.

Module content

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How will I learn?

Organised as three hour seminars over 5 weeks or as a two day 'intensive', this module is based on readings and screenings. Available as an elective to design students, the class will be populated by students from the Schools of Visual Culture and Design.

Learning tool	Hours
Seminars	15
Specified Learning Activities	15
Autonomous Student Learning	70
Total Workload	100

What learning supports are provided?

Bibliographic sources and models of writing / research practice will be supplied.

Indicative bibliography

Anderson, J (2018) *The Future of the World: Futurology, Futurists, and the Struggle for the Post Cold War Imagination*

Attali, J (2011) *A Brief History of the Future*

Blaszczyk RL (2018) *The Fashion Forecasters: A Hidden History of Color and Trend Prediction*

Bridle, J (2017) *New Dark Age*

Jameson, F. (2005) *Archaeologies of the Future : The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions*

Wittenberg D (2013) *Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative*

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
Written assignment	100%	TBC
Total	100%	

The essay will be assessed using NCAD's Grade Assessment criteria.

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: None

Co-Requisite: None

Incompatibles: n/a

Prior Learning

Requirements: None

Excluded: None

Recommended:

Should be prepared to participate fully in all module activities including visits

When and where is this module offered?

Summer Trimester

TBC

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 2/3rds of the way through the trimester, 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