

Key Theories from 20th to 21st Century

PGACW-4

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	MFA / MA Art in the Contemporary World
NQF level	9	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long,
Trimester	spring	Module Team	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, Dr Sarah Pierce and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
Contact	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council, and the School of Visual Culture have responsibility for this module.		

Introduction

This module has 2 areas of focus:

1. 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 Formalism, Structuralism, The Social History of Art, Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology amongst others and the writings of Rosalind Krauss, Jacques Lacan, TJ Clark, Roland Barthes and Maurice Merleau-Ponty.
2. 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 and the writings of thinkers such as Žižek; Deleuze & Guattari; Laruelle and Meillasoux.

What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH 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. 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

How will I learn?

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

Credits 5

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led tutorials and classes	12
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	52
Total Workload	100

What learning supports are provided?

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

Key texts are distributed and bibliographical supports are provided.

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
TBC	100%	TBC
Total	100%	

Assessment tool

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes being assessed
	1,2 and 3

Feedback, results and grading

This module will be assessed employing the cross college grade descriptors.

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.

When and where is this module offered?

Spring trimester / various sites at NCAD

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 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