

Contexts for Contemporary Practice PGVC2001

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	15	Programme	Art in the Contemporary World MFA
NQF level	9	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	2	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long,
Trimester	Autumn	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 is offered to support a student in establishing the intellectual context for his or her practice. It requires that a student looks out from their practice to the wider contexts of art practice, visual culture, critical theory and/or philosophy. It supports the development of a critical and informed understanding of a current critical debate or issue that has been identified by the student. For instance, an ACW MFA student developing a photographic practice exploring the conditions of the Anthropocene will research key articulations of the concept as it has been developed in, say, geology or critical theory. They will reflect critically on the uses of this concept.

Each student will share their understanding of the concept by leading a seminar discussion. At the same time, each student will be required to support their peers by participating in discussion of texts / other material selected by others. This material will be circulated by the students one week in advance of the seminar.

By the end of the module, the student will have acquired a fluent understanding of key concepts and issues as well as a well-informed understanding of their relevance to contemporary art. The student will have also led a seminar with their peers which will support the development of their articulacy and critical thinking. In this way, the module is designed to support greater independence and peer learning. The task of structuring a seminar will also support those who wish to develop a teaching practice or undertake higher level research.

What will I learn?

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

1. place their practice as an MFA student in wider intellectual and artistic context;
2. employ and critically assess theory;
3. communicate their ideas with sophistication and demonstrate high levels of independent thought.

Module content

This module involves a regular seminar which, in the first phase, is taught by ACW tutors and/or guests and in the second phase is student led. The seminar participants will include ACW MFA students and also MFA FA students who have chosen the 'thesis route'. (For the latter, this event will provide a useful opportunity to test ideas which will feature in the 'thesis').

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

Each seminar class involves the entire group reading a significant essay/s or chapter of a book, or viewing key material such as artists' films in preparation for the class. The seminar discussion will be led by different students each week, each of whom will have selected this material. The material might have been selected for the ideas that it contains or its form/voice. Each student is required to structure the seminar discussion by introducing the material and then inviting critical reflections on the part of the group. This approach will be introduced in phase one by tutors not only leading such a seminar but also sharing their reflections on seminar technique.

Following the presentation, students will submit their notes and some critical reflections on the seminar itself for assessment.

How will I learn?

Students will learn by preparing material for discussion in class as well as participation in classes prepared by other students and members of staff. As such this module combines opportunities to engage with current concepts and theories as well as approaches to communication.

Credits

15

Learning tool	Hours
Seminars	14
Specified Learning Activities	28
Autonomous Student Learning	258
Total Workload	300

What learning supports are provided?

In the early phase of the seminar there will be significant attention given to the form of the seminar, to encourage students to develop a critical understanding of its potential for debate and dissemination of ideas.

Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	All trimester 1 and trimester 2 modules on the ACW MA must have been successfully completed prior to transfer to the MFA. They are <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>Introduction to Research Methods PGVC- 01</td></tr> <tr><td>Contemporary Art Practices 1: Discourses of Art PGACW-1</td></tr> <tr><td>Situations 1 PGACW-2</td></tr> <tr><td>Situations 2 PGACW-3</td></tr> <tr><td>Key Theories 20th Century Foundations PGACW-4</td></tr> <tr><td>Art and Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism PGACW-6</td></tr> <tr><td>Contemporary Art Practices 2: Medium PGACW-7</td></tr> <tr><td><i>Situations 3 PGACW-8 OR Situations 4 PGACW-9 OR DHPH-14 Design Mediation OR DHPH-15 Futures</i></td></tr> <tr><td>Key Theories 3: Making Publics PGACW-10</td></tr> </table>	Introduction to Research Methods PGVC- 01	Contemporary Art Practices 1: Discourses of Art PGACW-1	Situations 1 PGACW-2	Situations 2 PGACW-3	Key Theories 20 th Century Foundations PGACW-4	Art and Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism PGACW-6	Contemporary Art Practices 2: Medium PGACW-7	<i>Situations 3 PGACW-8 OR Situations 4 PGACW-9 OR DHPH-14 Design Mediation OR DHPH-15 Futures</i>	Key Theories 3: Making Publics PGACW-10
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Key Theories 3: Making Publics PGACW-10										

	Key Theories 4: Politics of Participation PGACW-11 Art and Writing 2: Varieties of Criticism PGACW-12
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
Presentation (and notes)	100%	End of autumn trimester
Total	100%	
Following the presentation, students will submit their notes and critical reflections on the seminar itself for assessment.		
Assessment tool		
Assessment tool	Learning outcomes being assessed	
Presentation and critical reflections	1,2 and 3	

Feedback, results and grading
This module will be assessed graded by a single tutor according to the cross college grade descriptors.

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.

When and where is this module offered?
Various sites at NCAD including the studios in the Annex.
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