

Histories of Art and Design 1

VC1-4

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	10	Programme	BA (Hons) Visual Culture
NQF level	8	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Hilary O'Kelly
Trimester	1	Module Team	Rachel O'Dwyer, Paul Caffrey, Francis Halsall, Hilary O'Kelly
Contact	Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	NCAD Academic Council / School of Visual Culture		

Introduction

This module introduces students to the disciplines of the History of Art and Design. They will study key methods and themes from the disciplines; they will also be introduced to paradigmatic examples of objects and practices relevant to the study of Art and Design. Students will also consider works of art and design in their wider contexts using appropriate methods of analysis to establish both theoretical and contextual frameworks such, for instance, as gender. The question of how a canon is formed and its effects will be explored, as will established art and design historical concepts such as originality and techniques such as iconography. Understanding the preoccupations and limits of the discipline of the History of Art and Design is key to understanding the broader ambit of Visual Culture.

The aims of this module are to develop critical understanding of:

1. Definitions of art and design, and how these are situated within particular traditions, histories, and canons.
2. Key historical categories and concepts in the discipline including: Classicism; Renaissance; Baroque; Modernism.
3. Key methods and tools of visual analysis such as: Iconography; Style; Social Historical analysis.

What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH: Identify and apply an appropriate range of key historical definitions and concepts used in the History of Art and Design.
2. ANALYSE: Apply some key methods of visual and object analysis to particular examples from the History of Art and Design.
3. COMMUNICATE: Articulate and communicate research in appropriate, coherent and relevant forms.

Module content

An indicative list of subjects to be addressed in the module include;

- What is Design History?
- What is Design?
- What is Art History?
- What is Art?
- Style and Meaning in Art and Design
- Interpretative methods
- Value in Art and Design

How will I learn?

Learning will take the form of weekly seminars, in preparation for which students will be required to read primary and secondary texts in advance. As a seminar, each class will take the form of tutor-led discussion of the skills and concepts required to analyse objects, images and texts, and to critically assess the merits and limits of approaches advocated by art and design historians.

Credits

Learning tool	Hours
Seminars	24
Specified Learning Activities	48
Autonomous Student Learning	128
Total Workload	200

What learning supports are provided?

Each seminar class is supported by a course outline in which essential and background readings are identified. In the case of key readings for a particular class, students will be given guidance about how and what to read in advance. Indicative works include:

Cherry, Deborah, ed. (2005) *Art: History: Visual: Culture*, Oxford, Blackwell
 Highmore, Ben (2009) *The Design Culture Reader*, London, Routledge
 Lees-Maffei, Grace & Rebecca Houze eds., (2010) *The Design History Reader*, Oxford, Berg
 Shiff, Richard and Robert Nelson and eds., (2010) *Critical Terms for Art History*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
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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
Student Presentation and Illustrated essay	100%	Week 11
Total	100%	

Students will prepare a presentation and submit an essay for assessment on an object or image of their choice. The aim of the combined assessment is to encourage students to exercise discrimination in the range of methods and frameworks which they bring to the task of object or image analysis, as well as to develop the tools of expression required.

Students will be asked to present their research and ideas in the form of a presentation, before submitting it as an essay. The work will be assessed using NCAD Grade Assessment Criteria. As first year work, greater emphasis will be placed on comprehension and understanding than on research and originality. To this end, students will be credited for situating their chosen subject within the disciplines of art and design history, and for discussing their subject through relevant historical or theoretical frameworks.

Feedback, results and grading

Assessment of this module is via submission of a portfolio of writing samples aimed at the various perspectives that contribute to our understanding of visual culture. The portfolio of writing samples may, for example, include: an exhibition press release or commercial gallery blurb (production), exhibition review (reception).

The work will be assessed employing the College's Grade Assessment criteria (see the programme handbook). In particular, work which demonstrates a clear and critical understanding of the different modes of verbal and literary expression employed in these different mediating contexts will be credited highly.

Written feedback will be given at the end of the module. There will also be opportunities for informal and peer-to-peer feedback in class in relation to particular elements of the portfolio.

What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of Trimester 2 to students who do not complete all assessments in Trimester 1, but students will not be able to progress to the next stage of the programme until they have successfully completed all Year 2 modules, equivalent to 60 credits.

When and where is this module offered?

Venue: tbc

Weeks 1-12 of trimester 1.

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