NCAD DUBLIN
National College of Art and Design
*A Recognised College of University College Dublin*

# Contemporary Theories and Practices
# VC3-8

# MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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|---|---|---|---|
| **ECTS credits[1]** | 5 | **Programme** | BA (Hons) Fine Art<br>BA (Hons) Design<br>BA (Hons) Visual Culture<br>BA (Hons) Fine Art/Design and Education |
| **NQF level** | 8 | **School** | School of Visual Culture |
| **Stage** | 3 | **Module Co-ordinator** | David Crowley |
| **Trimester** | 2 | **Module Team** | Francis Halsall, Declan Long, Sarah Pierce, Hilary O'Kelly, Paul Caffrey and others |
| **Contact** | Neasa Travers, Secretary School of Visual Culture: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie | | |
| **Responsibility** | NCAD Academic Council / School of Visual Culture | | |

Introduction

The aim of this module is to engage students with a current theories relevant to contemporary practices in art and design. Students on this module select one thematic weekly seminar course from a range of 12-14 options. This is known as an 'elective'.

Not organized according to a single medium or field of art / design practice but by concepts and themes, the seminar also allows students from different disciplines to exchange ideas and perspectives. It provides an introduction to the intellectual and analytical depth required to undertake the research projects which NCAD BA students are required to undertake in their second and third year of study.

The seminars presents students with the opportunity to:

1. Acquire a critical understanding of current theories and concepts relating to local and international art and design practices.
2. Develop the analytical skills to understand and critique appropriate theories.
3. Develop further critical writing and research skills with reference to contemporary theories and practices.
4. Establish a theoretical and methodological framework for developing critical reflection on their own practice.


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What will I learn?

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

1. RESEARCH: Employ an appropriate range of sources that relate current practices in art and design to broader cultural and critical issues.

2. ANALYSE: Demonstrate a critical understanding of several areas of contemporary practice in art and design that enable evaluation and critical reflection on own work and field whether as an artist or designer, or as a writer and critical thinker.

3. COMMUNICATE: Successfully communicate research, analysis and initiative in coherent and relevant forms.

**Module content**

Indicative 'elective' themes include: The Female City; Technology and Craft. The Politics of Production; Media & The Body; Where does design come from? The impact of industrialization and mass-production on design; Contemporary Philosophies for Art & Design; Photography: Key Concepts and Debates; The History of Drag; Contemporary Art and Critique; Psychology of Space; Avant-garde Cinema & Experimental Moving Image; Contemporary Design: Designer as Agent of Change; Cloth and Clothing: Idea, Object, Image; What is Contemporary Art?; and The Archive.

**How will I learn?**

This module combines lectures, seminars and individual learning tasks. This combination will encourage a broad introduction of a wide range of contemporary theories and practices with opportunities to develop a specialist interest through it elective elements. Further specialism and focus will be achieved by students producing a text / texts for assessment. Written feedback will be given on completion of those tasks. Some electives may offer visits to galleries and other institutions of relevance.

**Credits**

| Learning tool | Hours |
|---|---|
| Seminars | 22 |
| Specified Learning Activities | 18 |
| Autonomous Student Learning | 60 |
| Total Workload | 100 |

**What learning supports are provided?**

Dedicated reference material will be supplied to students undertaking each 'elective' (seminars) outlining key readings, general readings, links to on-line resources, etc.

**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. |


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| Recommended | None |
|---|---|

**How will I be assessed?**

| Assessment tool | % of final grade | Timing |
|---|---|---|
| Illustrated essay | 100% | c. w 11 |
| **Total** | **100%** | |

Students are required to submit a 2500-3000 word essay written in response to questions set by the module team. Different but equivalent essays accompany each elective.

**Feedback, results and grading**

Work submitted for assessment will be graded using NCAD Grade Assessment Criteria.
Please note: students undertaking the electives which form part of this module will be at different stages of their study, and tutors will recognise this in their feedback. For instance, first year students should be able to assess the relative usefulness of the sources with which they work, understanding the different qualities of primary sources and secondary ones., whereas second and third year students should be able to demonstrate greater degrees of independence as researchers in the sourcing and selection of such materials.

**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 / Week 1-12

**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


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