

Module Code: 04C	Critical and Contextual Research
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Level:	4
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Credit Value:	15
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Prerequisites:	Introduction to Personal Planning
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Module Description

This module introduces students to the wide range of contexts that may have a bearing on the conception, production and consumption of contemporary art, design and craft. It develops the student's ability to write reports and essays and to have greater skill and confidence in personally presenting their ideas to an audience. It provides students with an opportunity to develop their communication, research and analysis skills.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the wide range of social, economic, political, industrial, technical, environmental and aesthetic contexts within which art, design and craft are conceived, produced and consumed.
2. Undertake visual analysis of artefacts and/or visual communications.
3. Research, analyse and communicate information in written and audiovisual forms.

Indicative Content

- Visual analysis of form and function, style and content, materials and processes.
- An introduction to the theories and methodologies, drawn from different intellectual disciplines, of distinctively contextual art, design, and craft histories and criticism.
- Critical analysis of the aesthetics, materiality, and the specificity of visual artefacts in relation to the plausible discursive contexts in which those artefacts are discovered and embedded.
- Transferable skills of visual and textual research.
- Introduction to ergonomics and aesthetic issues.
- Communication and presentation skills.
- Audio/visual presentation techniques and skills.
- Essay planning/structure and referencing.
- Essay outline presentations.
- Essay writing revisited.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Lectures, seminars, tutorials and critiques.

Assessment

50% Illustrated essay/report.

- Contextual analysis of contemporary artefacts and visual communications.

50% Audiovisual presentation.

- Audio/visual analysis of form and function, style and content, materials and processes.

Specific Learning Resources

Seminar room with data projector. Studio with slide/overhead projector. Access to computer suites.

Learning resources may be expected to include websites, video, and gallery based materials as well as library resources.

Bibliography

Highly Recommended

Barthes, Roland, 1977; Image, Music, Text; London: Fontana Press.

Berger, John, 1972, (re-issued 2008); Ways of Seeing; London; Penguin Books Ltd.

Black, Sandy, 2008; Eco-chic The Fashion Paradox; London; Black Dog.

Beward, Christopher, 2003; Fashion; Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harrison, Charles and Paul Wood, 2003; Art in Theory, 1900-2000: An Anthology of Changing Ideas; Oxford: Blackwell.

Orton, Fred and Griselda Pollock, 1996; Avant-Gardes and Partisans Reviewed; Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Schavemaker, Margriet and Mischa Rakier(ed.) Right About Now: Art and Theory Since the 1990s, Amsterdam: Valiz, 2007.

Svendsen, Lars, 2006; Fashion A Philosophy; Trowbridge, Cromwell Press.

Recommended

Adorno, Theodor W. 2003; The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture; London: Routledge.

Arnold, Dana. and Iversen, Margaret. Eds., 2003; Art and Thought; Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Barthes, Roland, 1993; Mythologies; London: Vintage.

Baudelaire, Charles, 1995 (new edition); The Painter of Modern Life; Phaidon Press Ltd.

Benjamin, Walter, 1992; Illuminations; London: Fontana.

Bois, Yve-Alain, Foster, Hal, Krauss, Rosalind E., Buchloh, Benjamin, 2004; Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism; London: Thames & Hudson.

Clark, T. J. 1985; The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and His Followers; London, Thames and Hudson.

Foster, Hal, ed. 1983; Postmodern Culture; London, Pluto Press.

Jameson, Fredric, 1991; Postmodernism or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism; London: Verso.

Pollock, Griselda, 1999; Differencing the Canon: Feminist Desire and the Writing of Art's Histories; London: Routledge.

Pollock, Griselda, 1988; Vision and Difference: Femininity, Feminism and Histories of Art; London and New York, Routledge.

Prettejohn, Elizabeth, 2005; Beauty and Art; Oxford and New York, Oxford University Press.

Ruhrberg, Schneckenburger, Fricke, Honnef; 2000; Art of the 20th Century; Taschen

Stern, Radu; Against Fashion, Clothing as Art, 1850-1930; MIT Press.

Periodicals

Artforum, October, Parkeet, Fashion Theory, Selvedge, Another Magazine, Domus, Drapers, Vogue, Interiors, Crafts, Ceramic Review, Media Culture and Society, Art Review, Eye, Creative Review, Blueprint, I.D, Frieze, Time Out, Wallpaper, Photoworks, Portfolio, Printmaking Today, Screen.

Useful Websites

www.designmuseum.org

www.ica.org

www.vam.ac.uk

www.tate.org.uk