

**Module Code:** Critical and Contextual Research  
BAPH06C  
FDPH06C

**Level:** 4

**Credit Value:** 15

**Pre-Requisites:**

### **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 & 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 within specialist research.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

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

### **Indicative Content**

- Visual analysis of form & function, style & content, materials & 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 artifacts in relation to plausible discursive contexts in which those artifacts are discovered and embedded.
- Transferable skills of visual and textual research.
- Introduction to ergonomics, aesthetic and ethical issues.
- Communication and presentation skills.
- Audio/visual presentation techniques & skills.
- Essay planning/structure & referencing.
- Essay outline presentations.

- Essay writing revisited.

## Learning & Teaching Strategies

Lectures, seminars, tutorials and critiques.

## Assessment

50% Illustrated essay of 2000 words

- Contextual analysis of contemporary artifacts and visual communications.

50% Audiovisual presentation (5 – 10 minutes)

- Audio/visual analysis of form & function, style & 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  
 Breward, 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century**; Taschen

Stern, Radu; **Against Fashion, Clothing as art, 1850-1930**;

#### Background Reading

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](http://www.designmuseum.org)

[www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)