

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Critical and Contextual Studies - Design Ecologies

Reference	AA2401	Version	1
Created	August 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 8
Approved	September 2023	SCQF Points	30
Amended		ECTS Points	15

Aims of Module

To distinguish the student's critical position in their evolving practice within contemporary and historical themes of visual and material culture, and design ecologies.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Distinguish relevant research methods to support ideas through required the reading list and independently sourced materials related to historical and contemporary themes of visual and material culture, and design ecologies.
- 2 Combine critical thinking to historical and contemporary themes of visual and material culture, and design ecologies research through the development and contextualisation of ideas related to studio practice.
- 3 Categorise information within oral and written communication.
- 4 Use critical and contextual knowledge through attendance, participation and engagement with lectures and seminars.

Indicative Module Content

The core critical thinking skills of selecting, relating, and applying research will be expanded upon to enable students to develop a greater critical and contextual awareness in visual and material culture. The wider field of design ecologies is explored through design ethics and cultural theory. Emphasis is placed on differentiating creative contexts and how design practices inform shifting socio-cultural attitudes. Themes covered include: the role designers play in responding to change - technological, political, economic and environmental; ecological and sustainable design; material culture; and contemporary urgencies. This module will build upon emerging skills of distinguishing relevant research methods to support ideas through directed and independently sourced materials; combining critical thinking; planned debates; comparison of key research and showing ideas in writing and verbally. Emphasis is placed on progressing critical thinking skills combining a developing knowledge of studio practice and activities. The module is delivered through lectures, seminars and tutorials and supported using library resources, access to image databases, sourcing relevant information online, physical library materials and archival objects. Theoretical project work should evidence an awareness and consideration of sustainable themes in a manner appropriate to the context of the discipline. The CCS programme acts as a critical counterpoint to work in the studio and is intended to create a conversation between practice and theory.

Module Delivery

Critical and Contextual Studies is interdisciplinary. The module is lecture and seminar based, with allocated time for private and directed study and further reading. Group discussion and critical debate will be facilitated through seminar and in-conversation forums. Visits from relevant professionals and study trips, may form part of the curriculum.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	50	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	250	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	N/A
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	Submission of written coursework.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

In order to pass the module you need to achieve a D or above.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	An A at C1
B	A B at C1
C	A C at C1
D	A D at C1
E	An E at C1
F	An F at C1
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Students will be guided towards particular readings relevant to the individual projects and will be encouraged to keep abreast of contemporary issues occurring in their specialist areas.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 Anker, P. (2010) Bauahus to Ecohaus: a history of ecological design, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University.
- 2 Hines, S. (2018) Is Gender Fluid: a primer for the 21st century, London, Thames & Hudson
- 3 Julier, G. (2014) The Culture of Design, Los Angeles, SAGE
- 4 McLuhan, M. & Fiore, Q. (1967/1996) The Medium is the Massage. London, Penguin
- 5 Mirzoeff, N. (2015) How to see the world, London: Pelican
- 6 Papanek, V. (2019) Design for the real world, London, Thames & Hudson
- 7 Rawsthorn, A. (2018) Design is an Attitude, Geneva, JRP
- 8 Rawsthorn, A. (2022) Design Emergencies, London, Phaedon