

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### Module Title

Critical Contextual Studies and Research Methods

Reference	AAM201	Version	1
Created	April 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	August 2017	SCQF Points	30
Amended		ECTS Points	15

### Aims of Module

To establish a forum for the critical analysis of contemporary creative theory and practice. To develop a critical, analytical understanding and engagement with research methodologies appropriate to creative theory and practice. To support students in identifying, exploring, developing and debating a personal philosophical and methodological research platform, that conveys clear understanding of current discourse within contemporary creative theory and practice. To demonstrate a critical and deep understanding of key issues concerning both theory and practice within their specialist practice, towards managing, evaluating and disseminating that research.

### Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Identify appropriate visual and theoretical research methods enabling students to both explore and establish a clear relationship between their specialist discipline and broader issues within relevant cultural, creative industries and professional contexts.
- 2 Analyse and independently apply appropriate visual and theoretical research methods enabling students to establish clear relationships between their specialist discipline and broader issues within cultural, creative industries and professional contexts.
- 3 Demonstrate the capacity for critical debate, effective planning, self-evaluation and reflection on visual and theoretical research methods and critical contextual enquiry.
- 4 Communicating a personal research methodology and critical position, as it relates to that of their peers, contemporary practice, and the needs of the creative industries, through a research focused reflective report.

### Indicative Module Content

This module offers a focused perspective on contemporary visual culture and theory, together with discipline specific research methods that students will contextualise with respect to their specialist area of applied practice. The module considers a range of critical contextual and theoretical issues and debates informing contemporary practices and examines these in depth. Students will be mentored, supported and engage in a variety of thematic issues and contexts including: contemporary curating, practice-based research methods, socially engaged and participatory Art & Design practices for social change, Material Culture and Object Theory, and Digital artifacts as quasi-objects for example. These lectures and seminars will develop students critical awareness and understanding. Whilst research training in this module will focus on strategies for structuring and writing in appropriate academic formats for the communication of ideas and discourse within contemporary collaborative, curatorial, participatory, studio or professional practices.

### Module Delivery

The module is delivered by means of a programme of lectures and seminar sessions intended to create a discursive, supportive and open forum for the study, analysis and discussion of key theoretical concepts, themes, research methods and creative practices. The sessions will be led and directed by academic staff, researchers and professionals from across the creative industries. Students will be expected to develop an extended piece of writing, physical research portfolio and/or journal clearly mapping the relevance of the module content on their practice

### Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	60	60
Non-Contact Hours	240	240
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	300
<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:	60%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3
Description:	A portfolio of written and visual work including research and development from seminars and lecture programme.				

#### Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
Description:	A critical appraisal and research focused report				

**MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR****Explanatory Text**

A portfolio of critical writing including and evidencing reflection statements from seminars (component 1), and a critical appraisal and research focused report (component 2).

		Coursework:						NS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Coursework:	A	A	A	A	B	E	F	
	B	B	B	B	B	E	E	
	C	B	C	C	C	E	F	
	D	C	C	D	D	E	F	
	E	E	E	E	E	E	F	
	F	E	E	F	F	F	F	
	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 are also required to identify (and will be guided towards), a range of of texts and contextual materials relevant to their specialist creative practice and area of research. These will typically include textbooks, journals and on-line resources written by critics, curators, academics, historians, philosophers, theorists, artists and designers.

**INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1 COTTRELL, S., 2011. Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2 DAWSON, C., 2009. Introduction to Research Methods: a practical guide for anyone undertaking a research project. 4th ed. Oxford: How To Books.
- 3 CHAPLIN, S. and WALKER, J., 1997. Visual Culture: An Introduction. Manchester: University Press.
- 4 FRANCIS, P., 2009. Inspiring Writing in Art and Design: Taking a Line for a Write. Bristol: Intellect Ltd.
- 5 GRAY, C. and MALINS, J., 2004. Visualizing Research a Guide to the Research Process in Art and Design. Oxon: Ashgate.
- 6 GEORGE, A., 2015. The Curator's Handbook: Museum, Commercial Galleries, Independent Spaces. London: Thames and Hudson.
- 7 SULLIVAN, G., 2005. Art practice as research: inquiry in the visual arts. London: Sage.
- 8 MARKOPOULOS, P. et al., 2016. Collaboration in Creative Design: Methods and Tools. Switzerland: Springer.