MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Critical Contextual Studies and Research Methods

Reference	AAM201	Version	3
Created	February 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	August 2017	SCQF Points	30
Amended	September 2023	ECTS Points	15

Aims of Module

The module builds intrinsic links between students' creative visual practice and critical theory, research methodologies, and contemporary debates within Art and Design. The module challenges students to establish critical links between identified research methodologies, theoretical contexts and debates, and their practice-based explorations and to be able to articulate these appropriately.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

1	Evidence clear understanding of relevant critical and theoretical contexts and discourse, informing contemporary practice as it relates to students' own work.
2	Demonstrate high levels of active critical engagement through discussion, presentation and authoring (writing or other formats) in debates.
3	Appraise and reflect on relevant theoretical and practice-based research methods, in order to better synthesise personal relationship between specialist discipline[s] research method and theoretical contexts.
4	Demonstrate effective levels of independent planning, researching leading to articulating a substantive personal critical position that intrinsically links personal practice[s] to theoretical contexts and research method[s], by means of written paper, reflective report or alternative format.

Indicative Module Content

This module provides a critical platform to debate contemporary visual culture and theory within art and design. The module introduces thematically informed research methodologies and critical theory that supports students in contextualising their specialist area of applied practice. The module introduces a range of critical themes, methodological principles and theoretical debates that support students to develop their skills in articulating their own positions in writing or alternative formats. The principle of research, seen through the lens of practice, and aligned to critical debate underpins students developing personal strategies in more clearly structuring complex ideas, theoretical contexts and critical discourse, beyond their individual art and design disciplines.

Module Delivery

The module is delivered across a programme of bi-weekly lectures and seminars providing a supportive platform for debate, analysis and peer-to-peer dialogue. The seminar programme requires students to actively engage in discussion and critique of theoretical concepts, research methods introduced and ideas. The seminar sessions are led by academic staff, active researchers and invited external professionals drawn from across the creative industries.

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
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

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:	A reflective essay, critical appraisal or research focused 2,500 word report aligning practice to a specific theoretical context or method.

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

An overall Grade D is required to pass the module.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	An A grade in C1.
B	A B grade in C1.
C	A C grade in C1.
D	A D grade in C1.
E	An E grade in C1.
F	An F grade in 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 are also required to identify (and will be guided towards), a range of texts and associated contextual materials relevant to their specialist creative practice and area of research. These will typically but not exclusively include textbooks, journals, exhibitions and on-line resources written by critics, curators, academics, historians, philosophers, theorists, artists and designers.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1	BAUDRILLARD, J., 2020. The system of objects. London: Verso.
2	GROYS, B., 2010. Going public. Berlin: Sternberg Press.
3	LOVELESS, N., 2019. How to make art at the end of the world: a manifesto for research-creation. Durham; London: Duke University Press.
4	O'NEILL, P. and WILSON, M., eds., 2015. Curating research. London: Amsterdam: Open Editions; de Appel.
5	Colomina, B., and Wigley, M.. 2016. Are We Human? Notes on an Archaeology of Design. Zurich, Switzerland: Lars Muller Publishers.
6	Avila, , M., 2022. Designing for Interdependence: A Poetics of Relating. London, New York: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.
7	VIS, D., 2021. Research For People Who (Think They) Would Rather Create. First edition. Eindhoven: Onomatopee.
8	YUSOFF, K., 2018. A billion black Anthropocenes or none. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.