

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Contemporary Philosophy and Aesthetics
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	7
4	Module Code	ART7877

5	Module Overview
Rationale/ Indicative content	
<p>This module, Contemporary Philosophy & Aesthetics explores how Fine Art is made and understood conceptually. How thinking in Fine Art works. This may inform research into practice via the meeting of philosophy, visual culture and social contexts within Fine Art practices. We may look at exhibitions artists and cultural discourses. For example: texts, films, music, fashion and events. It sets the stage for developing your own critical knowledge of the complexities underlying modern and contemporary life and in so doing, building your concepts and language, in your own practices.</p> <p>Philosophy asks big questions of life. Why is falling in love or mourning so crucial, how can we understand tragedy, what is identity, why does culture matter, are we always already alone, what does crisis let us see? Are artists the deepest thinkers of our time? Heidegger, for example said that art is the sensuous presentation of ideas. That art reveals and that images are performative and should be understood as embodied. So when we can ask questions and make conversations or propositions, in relevant materials or places, then we're thinking and making. And this is why theory is crucial to practice.</p> <p>This module examines the work of key thinkers influencing 20th and 21st Century thinking. It may include for example: Institutional critique based on Marxist theory Freud's psychoanalytic propositions; Dialectical re-thinking of identity, agency and art, (drawing on Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, and Jacques Derrida); The work of Stuart Hall and CCCS based in Birmingham in the 70's.</p> <p>While topics discussed may be new, every attempt will be made to guide you via lectures, seminars and field trips, where possible. We will use Harrison and Wood's book Art in Theory, art catalogues, interviews, online resources and films. While you will learn words, expressions and concepts via looking at philosophers and artists, the intention is to open up new thinking that will give another dimension to your understanding of the relationship between theory, practice and art, enabling you to learn 'how' rather than 'what' to think.</p> <p>As the Conceptual artist Joseph Beuys said Each and every man has the most precious building in the world in his head, feelings and free will.</p>	
Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy	
<p>This taught module consists of ten two hour seminars (normally one per week over 10 weeks) delivered in Term 1/ Stage 1. This module includes presentations, reading directed extracts from primary and secondary texts, group discussion, one to one tutorial support from academic staff, and where appropriate to your study, student led seminar presentations and briefing meetings.</p>	

There is an opportunity for on-going formative appraisal to take place via diagnostic, one to one tutorial support and where appropriate group tutorial situations. This supports students in the development of their reflective skills as well as preparing them for the formal **Summative Assessment** at the end of the module.

6 Indicative Content

Contemporary Philosophy & Aesthetics explores how Fine Art is made and understood conceptually.

Learning and Teaching Methods include: Briefings, Lectures, Seminars, Independent Learning, Diagnostic, Individual and Group Tutorials, Presentations, Library Research/ Resources, Study Visits.

7 Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

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| 1 | To demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of Contemporary Philosophy as part of an informed dialogue with practice and with reference to historical and/ or contemporary contexts. |
| 2 | To conceptualise imaginatively and speculate on your topic while applying your analytical and critical skills to problem solving, reflective evaluation and the interpretation of your chosen line of enquiry through the synthesis and realisation of your work in an appropriate form. |

8 Module Assessment

Learning Outcome	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1 and 2	X		

9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities

Learning Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	40
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	120
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	40
Total Study Hours:	200