

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Critical Theories in Art
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	5
4	Module Code	ART5129

5	Module Overview
<p>This module focuses on the way in which people have written and thought about art in the 20th and 21st centuries. From a series of 10 weekly lectures, seminars, film screenings and study visits a series of key themes will emerge, articulated around different ways of being an artist. This idea is reflected in the titles of each lecture, ranging from 'Artist as Revolutionary', which looks at the relationship between art and politics, to 'Artist as Digital Native', which looks at the rise of digital culture within art. In this way the module encourages you to bridge theory and practice, enhancing the historical and theoretical knowledge that informs your studio work.</p> <p>This bridge between theory and practice is further strengthened mid-way through the module when you are required to work on a 20-minute group presentation. We encourage you to respond to this brief in a creative and critical manner, and your presentation could take the form of a film, performance or even curated exhibition. At the end of the module you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge of historical and contemporary art theory in a 2,500 word academic essay. There will be the opportunity to attend a one-on-one tutorial to support you in this task. You will also be required to attend at least one 'academic skills' session, helping you develop your ability to communicate your ideas in an academic format.</p> <p>The module is extensively supported through Moodle, where you will be able to find reading material for seminars, book yourself a place for tutorials and activities, and recap on lecture material.</p> <p>In summary, this module brings together these varied methods of learning and teaching to promote independent thinking, structured argumentation, confidence and creativity in writing and speaking about art through an expanded understanding of writing, texts, theory, and crucially, their relationship to practice.</p>	
6	Indicative Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of lectures, workshops and group activities introducing you to a variety of critical theories of art. • The opportunity to explore your own area of interest through a group presentation and individually written essay. • Group tutorials/ seminars focussing on critical debate and discussion. 	

7		Module Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:		
	1	Engage in on-going discussions of the lecture content, attending all compulsory sessions, and work collaboratively to produce a group presentation or alternative agreed format that bridges art theory and practice, demonstrating your understanding of both.
	2	Produce a clearly written and well-structured academic essay including illustrations, references and a bibliography.
	3	Research a number of key academic sources on the theory of art and evaluate these sources for their historical and contemporary significance to support an informed and independently generated central argument.
	4	Articulate further knowledge and understanding of both historical and contemporary art through use of relevant examples drawn from a wide range of primary and secondary sources. Move beyond simply describing these works, and into analysing them.

8		Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome				
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person	
1			x	
2-4	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	