

Creative Principles – Art & Ecology

PGCFAF1001

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	Professional Certificate in Art & Ecology Professional Diploma in Art & Ecology
NQF level	9	School	Fine Art
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Professor Philip Napier
Trimester	1	Module Team	NCAD staff team (co-ordinators, lecturers and technical officers)
Contact	Joanna Crawley, CFA Administrator: crawleyj@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Fine Art Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

With our current Earth crises, we need to urgently develop new and necessary Nature/ Culture futures. The historical, cultural and professional contexts of how creatives operate and work with ecological themes and the current earth crisis will be explored in rich and varied ways. Using Eco creative principles, creatives will explore a diversity of practices and approaches and become attuned to ways to practise in this territory.

This module works directly with an urban-embedded novel ecology of the NCAD FIELD site. This taskscape acts as an outdoor classroom, a site for nature connection, commoning and a testing site for multi-species futures. Connecting to the site and its seasonal activity, nature/culture connections are explored and enacted allowing learners to expand their research, creative making and critical thinking skills in meaningful and liveable ways. A grounding in the social, political, economic and historical issues that frame ecologies of the surroundings site are explored.

An emphasis will be placed on ‘learning through doing’ in a series of workshops and situated environmental learning. To this end a series of ‘principles’ have been identified which will be introduced within the module. These terms will be tested by the learners to see how they pragmatically fit context, action and encounter over the course of the module.

In addition to these principles which will be threaded through all coursework, learners will work with researchers and ecologists from Noveleco of Trinity College to conduct a biodiversity survey of the NCAD FIELD site as part of the collective work to appraise the FIELD as a Novel Ecology in place of being zoned as brownfield or derelict space. As well as creating a database for the FIELD to further research and understanding, this survey is framed as a training in observation, care and attention to a site.

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year

The aims of this module are to:

- Improve the exploration, curiosity, ambition, depth, and breadth of participant's creative practice in a systematic and insightful manner, introducing learners to contemporary artists who work in the interstitial space of wasteland/ urban garden/ entropy/ brownfield site and urban ecology.
- develop the participant's skills in research and decision making in the translation of findings into their creative practice by mapping plant species within a novel ecology.

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. DEFINE: Demonstrate an outline knowledge and understanding of select core principles, processes and concepts associated with “Novel”, Art and Critical Ecology.
2. CHARACTERISE: Demonstrate a working knowledge of the differing characteristics associated with contemporary Creative Ecological Practices.
3. DISTINGUISH: Demonstrate the ability to undertake analysis, evaluation and synthesis of key debates about the role of art in advancing critical understanding of our ecology.
4. CRITIQUE: Examine the professional practices associated with Art and Ecology including ethical issues raised by Creative Ecological Practices.

Module content

This module introduces learners to fundamental principles, working methods, skills and theories relating to Intersections of contemporary art with ecology and other epistemic disciplines for ‘knowing our environment’. NCAD FIELD and the broader Liberties area will be the location for this work. Together with more formal modes of presentation which will offer a broad contextual understanding, special emphasis will be placed on ‘learning through doing’ in a series of workshops and situated environmental learning.

A series of principles have been identified which will be introduced within the module. These terms/principles will be tested by the learners to see how well they pragmatically fit context, action and encounter over the course of the module. In addition to these principles, learners will conduct a biodiversity survey of the NCAD FIELD site as part of the collective work to appraise the FIELD as a novel ecology in a place that has been zoned as a brownfield site. As well as creating a database for the FIELD to further research and understanding, this survey is a training in observation, care and attention to a site. This combination of theory and practice lays a foundation for other modules in the Art & Ecology Professional Diploma.

3. How will I learn?

Students will learn through a combination of set activities within the pathway studio, in a situated environment /or base /outdoor classroom room, and self-directed study within and outside the College.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops	20
Autonomous Student Learning	80
Total Workload	100

4. What learning supports are provided?

Reading lists, suggested websites and other learning supports are included in the project briefs.

5. Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

6. How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Portfolio of work	80%	End of Trimester
Presentation of work	20%	End of Trimester
Total	100%	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Portfolio of work	1-4
Presentation of work	1-4

7. Feedback, results and grading

Students will receive feedback on their progress in the form of formative assessments and informal feedback as well as feedback on summative assessments.

Students' assessments will be graded using the [NCAD Grade Descriptors](#).

8. What happens if I fail?

Resit Opportunities

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of following Trimester to students who do not complete all assessments within their initial Trimester of study, but students will not be able to progress to the next stage of the programme until they have successfully completed this module.

9. When and where is this module offered?

Pathway Studios and Facilities,

Summer Trimester (May to September) OR Autumn Trimester (September to January)

10. How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the year, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of Trimester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, students are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year. Students can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate their comments to the staff.

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**