Key Theories 3: Making Publics
PGVC1012

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits[1]	5	Programme	MA/MFA Art in the Contemporary World Professional Certificate in Key Theories: Making Publics (CFA) MRes PhD
NQF level	9	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long,
Trimester	2	Module Team	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, Dr Sarah Pierce and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
Contact	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This module focuses on key modern and contemporary theoretical paradigms concerned with the public sphere and the definition and constitution of publics. Students will consider the role that aesthetic practices can play in the production of social relations and public spaces. Key case studies will be considered and critiqued. Indicative content includes definitions and practices of: The Public Sphere; Relational and Evental Aesthetics; The Event, and key writers such as Habermas, Badiou and Mouffe.

The aims of this module are to:

1. Explore some key theoretical paradigms that inform current debates about the public sphere as they are relevant to contemporary creative practices.

2. Critically analyse the relationships between students' own thought and practice and the various publics it might engage.

3. Support students in developing a good knowledge of the practices, vocabularies, theories and figures that influence contemporary understandings of publics and the public sphere.

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

2.   What will I learn?

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

1.   RESEARCH: Demonstrate a working knowledge of the relevant key theoretical paradigms relating to current debates about the relationships between public spheres and contemporary practices.

2.   ANALYZE: Apply critical perspectives on the relationships between their theory and practice and the appropriate audiences and stakeholders.

3.   COMMUNICATION: Successfully articulate and present (in various forms) the practices, vocabularies, theories and figures that are relevant to the public presentation of their work.

Module content

To reflect the changing nature of contemporary theories, practices and debates relating to publics and publics spheres the specific module content changes according to the themes that are deemed to be most relevant to the learning cohort at the time of delivery. At all times there will be careful consideration of the place and relevance of creative practices in the contemporary world.

In the past discussions have included the writings of thinkers such as: Habermas, Mouffe, Butler and perspectives including Queer Theory, Critical Race Theory, Feminism and Critical Theory.

3.   How will I learn?

The classes are student centred discussions based on close analysis and critical reflection of key theoretical texts and positions.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led seminars and classes	12
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	52
Total Workload	**100**

4.   What learning supports are provided?

This module is supported by a dedicated VLE (Canvas or Google Classroom) in which bibliographic material, set readings, assignments and other supporting material is shared. Key materials in the NCAD library have been identified to support learning on this module. Support for technical training in key skills such as sound recording and editing is provided through LinkedIn Learning online tutorials.

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
Essay (typically a piece of critical writing c. 3000 words)	100	Submitted by the end of the trimester
Total	**100%**	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Essay	All three learning outcomes

7.   Feedback, results and grading

Grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the NCAD Grade Descriptors.

Feedback is given by written assessment sheets and face to face discussion.

8.   What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of the trimester to students who do not complete all assessments.

9.   When and where is this module offered?

Trimester 2 at various sites on the NCAD campus.

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.

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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**

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