Collaborative Practices
VC3002

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits[1]	5	Programme	BA in Visual Culture
NQF level	8	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	3	Module Co-ordinator	Sarah Pierce
Trimester	Autumn	Module Team	Sarah Pierce
Contact	Neasa Tracer, 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

The purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity for students to explore the potential and limits of forms of collaboration with in the field of Visual Culture (broadly defined) through a series of practical tasks as well as conceptual frameworks. As such it takes the form of workshops, seminars involving analysis of texts and concepts, and presentations by guest speakers, as well as the design of and engagement in a collaborative project. The module is organised so that it moves over the trimester from theory to practice in the expectation that students will be able to critically reflect on the ideas which they have been engaged with in the early classes in their collaborative practice and, conversely, that their practice will be informed by their conceptual thinking. Every student will be expected to report on the development of their project at regular intervals, and to fully document all aspects of the collaboration – this might take the form of keeping a record of emails, minutes of meetings and financial data. The aims of this module are:

1. To understand and be able to explain the nature of collaborative projects within contemporary culture.
2. To design, conceptualise, realise and document a collaborative project

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will have designed a project which requires collaboration and will have sought and worked with collaborators. It might take the form of an event, a publication, a display or a service and ought to have a connection with the broad concerns and themes of Visual Culture. Their collaborators may include other students at NCAD including those registered in the schools of Fine Art, Design or Education. The module coordinator will provide support brokering and facilitating partnerships within NCAD and/or the city in the event that it is difficult for a student to establish his or her own. The module coordinator will also provide guidance about the scale and feasibility of any project being proposed.

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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

After successfully* completing the module, students will be able to:

1. RESEARCH: conceive and design a collaborative project, and research its potential;

2. PLAN: organise and meet a schedule of work that involves complex elements and includes key progression stages as well as a deadline;

3. REFLECT: develop a self-reflexive and self-critical perspective, able to assess both the strengths and weaknesses of the particular collaboration undertaken;

4. COMMUNICATE: a substantial, appropriately presented and critically informed statement, demonstrating sophisticated level of engagement with stated area of interest as well as the practice of collaboration.

* It is important to stress that whilst this is a live project which may well have public outcomes, it need not be a success in conventional terms. Critical and informed reflection on the difficulties and challenges of collaboration may well demonstrate the independence and understanding which this module sets out to foster.

Module content

Seminars will address the following:

- Working through initial ideas: defining the scope of the project, initial readings, analysing the
- social psychology of collaboration
- - Conceptualising collaboration: etymologies, competing paradigms, epistemological underpinnings
- Collaboration in contemporary culture: configuring the producer, research-led practice,
- models of authorship
- Contextualising collaboration: case studies from contemporary creative practice
- Collaboration in design: co-creation, co-production, 'team-work' and hierarchies, the user vs
- the client
- - Writing about collaboration: communication strategies for presenting data, key critical
- writing skills
- - Professionalism and criticality: student-led practice, how do we know what we know

Students will also make three ungraded *work in progress* presentations during the duration of the module. These are designed to generate useful feedback that will support the ongoing development of their collaborative project. Particular focus will be placed on supporting students to document their practice and the project as it unfolds during the course of the trimester (see notes on dossier below).

3. How will I learn?

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures and seminars	20

VC3002 Collaborative Practices   *Module Descriptor*
Approved by Academic Council: 15 Nov 23   *Page 2 of 4*
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Specified Learning Activities	20
Autonomous Student Learning	60
Total Workload	**100**

4. What learning supports are provided?

Set texts and further reading will be shared through Google Classroom or Canvas. Students who require particular technical and/or digital skills will be supported to acquire them, typically though the online training provided by LinkedIn learning (NCAD subscription).

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
Final project: report and dossier (see Indicative brief below)	100%	Week 11, autumn trimester
Total	**100%**	

Students will supply a report of the work initiated and carried out. It will be accompanied by a dossier of evidence related to the practical undertaking. The report should make reference to the material in the dossier. This report will be assessed against NCAD Grade Assessment Criteria. Work which demonstrates a critical understanding of concepts and theories of collaboration will score more highly than a report outlining the nature of the collaboration and the work undertaken. Informal formative feedback will be offered at each of the presentation workshops. The final summative assessment will be provided by means of a feedback form (See below).

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Report and dossier – as described above	1, 2, 3 and 4

VC3002 Collaborative Practices   *Module Descriptor*
Approved by Academic Council: 15 Nov 23   *Page 3 of 4*
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7. Feedback, results and grading

Feedback

Written feedback will be provided at the end of the module at the time of the January Examination Board.

Grading

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

8. What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of Trimester 2 to students who do not complete all assessments in Trimester 1, but students will not be able to graduate until they have successfully completed all final year modules, equivalent to 60 credits.

9. When and where is this module offered?

The module is delivered in School of Visual Culture classrooms and seminar rooms, as well as online, during the autumn trimester.

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**