

Art and Writing 1: Varieties of Criticism

PGACW-6

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits¹	5	Programme	MA / MFA Art in the Contemporary World
NQF level	9	School	Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	
Trimester	spring	Module Team	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, Dr Sarah Pierce, Dr Rachel O'Dwyer
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Introduction

This module concentrates on the many forms of criticism that are relevant to the theory and practice of contemporary art. The classes will address the conventions and characteristics of very different modalities of critical practice, ranging from long-form academic essays to the types of critical essays and reviews found in specialist art magazines, to forms of art criticism that take place in the pages of general interest publications (such as newspapers) and the forms of criticism that take place within the broadcast media. Addressing both contemporary and historical examples, these seminars allow students to look carefully at writing style as well as to understand contexts of writing, whether institutional, social or historical. Weekly readings of key critical writings are set, with each class based around a close-reading of the chosen text.

What will I learn?

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

1. **RESEARCH:** Develop an expanded understanding of the range and style of forms of criticism relevant to contemporary art.
2. **ANALYSE:** Gain knowledge and expertise in assessing how specific forms of criticism operate within a specific cultural or professional context, and of how they relate to particular sets of social and historical conditions.
3. **COMMUNICATE:** Develop the skills to write criticism in specific ways according to the conventions of defined writing contexts.

How will I learn?

Students will attend lectures and participate in seminars.

Learning tool	Hours
Lectures	
Seminars	24
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	40
Total Workload	100

What learning supports are provided?

Bibliographic sources and indicative models of writing / research practice will be supplied for seminar discussion. Students will be presented with models of practice for analysis and discussion in class.

How will I be assessed?

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

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Assessment of process and practice	100%	TBC
Total	100%	
The essay will be assessed using NCAD's Grade Assessment criteria.		
Assessment tool	Learning outcomes being assessed	
T	1,2 and 3	

Feedback, results and grading

This module will be assessed graded by a single tutor according to the cross college grade descriptors.

What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of autumn Trimester to students who do not complete all assessments in that Trimester.

Feedback, results and grading

This module will be assessed graded by a single tutor according to the cross college grade descriptors.

Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-Requisite: None

Co-Requisite: None

Incompatibles: n/a

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:

Should be prepared to read extensively and participate fully in all course activities including visits

When and where is this module offered?

This module is taught in the spring trimester.

Classes may be offered on site at NCAD or online in the case of special need or circumstances.

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 trimester, 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. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

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

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