

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the **Module Directory** for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	ARD496
Module Title	Contemporary Practices
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FACE
HECoS Code	100063
Cost Code	GADC

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA(Hons) Photography	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	10 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	40 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	160 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15/05/2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1



Module aims

- To develop visual research skills and knowledge of contemporary themes within contemporary photography practice.
- To provide students with practical studio and workshop related skills to develop an awareness of the vital role of contemporary practice in photography in its many forms and influences within society.
- To contextualise research findings, stimulate imagination through intellectual challenges and encourage creative problem solving.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Research, contemporary ideas drawn from different areas of photography practice to create a coherent, creative, and personal body of work.
2	Utilise a variety of methods from contemporary photography practices and processes.
3	Express and communicate ideas and concepts through a variety of media
4	Demonstrate the development and evaluation of responses to the assignment and the refinement in presentation of finished solutions.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This module will be assessed through a series of set practical assignments based on a range of contemporary themes. Students will be expected to fully document the development of ideas and concepts in response to each assignment via a reflective journal evidencing progress and development of their work for this module. This should be in the form of a PDF document uploaded to Moodle VLE.

Students will be assessed on the demonstration of their visual analysis, conceptual and technical skills and their ability to communicate effective solutions to given problems. They will also be encouraged to articulate the expression of their ideas, both verbally and visually on contemporary themes to their peers. Students will be expected to evaluate their learning experiences from the assignments in their reflective journal.

A professional attitude in the working environment, engagement in the group critiques and seminars and commitment to study will be reviewed in the students' performance for this module. In assessing the learning outcomes, a variety of factors will be taken into account, these include:

- Application of a variety of research methods.
- Investigation of contemporary themes and processes utilised by photography, film and media professionals and practitioners.
- Ability to originate creative ideas and concepts.
- Demonstration of a variety of visual language skills.
- Exploration and appraisal of a variety of media and presentation skills.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-4	Coursework	100



Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

This module will be taught through a series of lectures, seminars, group critiques, practical workshops and technical demonstrations and directed unsupervised study in which students will undertake a number of theme-based assignments.

Students will fully document their conceptual development in their reflective journals.

Formative assessments will take place in response to assignments in the form of oral presentations. This is designed to encourage students to develop confidence in communicating their ideas and achievements, be curious, find and learn about their interests within the artistic practices of photography, film and media.

Students will be expected to present visual research leading to resolved pieces of work.

Constructive feedback will be delivered to students by written, verbal, and digital audio and video methods.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

This module focuses on the vital skills of visual research, the methods and processes used in generating ideas, conceptualising and formulating appropriate and effective strategies and solutions to given briefs within contemporary photography practice.

The content of the module exists within the processes the student becomes involved in; personal research, intellectual inquiry, aesthetic interpretation, ideological solutions in response to the lectures and set assignments.

This interface of personal preferences and cultural significances is organised for the purpose of this module in terms of the students' abilities in the following areas:-

- Application of a variety of the research methods.
- Ability to generate and develop ideas and concepts.
- Expression and communication of these in visual terms.
- Critical awareness of the significance of visual messages.
- Development and evaluation of a personal visual language and communication skills.

Indicative Content:

Students will explore ideas and concepts through themed based assignments:

Generating and developing ideas and concepts about contemporary themes and practices through still and moving image; ways of seeing through digital and analogue manipulation, lighting, collaboration, and social engagement developing concepts for a variety of photographic genres.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Rogers, F. & Houghton, M. (2017), *Firecrackers: Female Photographers Now*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Cotton, Charlotte. (2020), *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Other indicative reading

Clarke, G. (1997), *The Photograph (Oxford History of Art)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Warner Marien, M. (2021), *Photography Fifth Edition: A Cultural History*. London: Laurence King Publishing.

Bate, D (2012), *Photography; The Key Concepts*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Higgins, J. (2013), *Why it Does Not Have To be In Focus: Modern Photography Explained*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Current Journals

Aperture

British Journal of Photography

Source Magazine