

Module specification

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Module Code	ARD719
Module Title	Questioning Photographic Practice
Level	7
Credit value	60
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
MA Photography	Core

Pre-requisites

N/A

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	63 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	63 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	537 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	600 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

Questioning is a module, that focuses upon refining your photographic practice by integrating it into dynamic philosophical debates and cultural discussions surrounding the wider notions of image making. By embracing conceptual risk-taking and experimenting with media that challenge conventional techniques, the module aims to disrupt habitual technical approaches and questions aesthetic and technical assumptions. Additionally, it aims to aid the development of a language for analysing the connection between photography and cultural identities, histories, politics, environments, and contemporary societal issues. Within this exploration, there will be a specific emphasis on enhancing your analytical writing, verbal articulation, and critical discussion skills. These skills will establish a strong foundation for engagement in photographic-based image-making, fostering a nuanced and well-informed approach to the evolution of your practice.

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

1	Articulate the personal and cultural significance of student's image-making through writing and verbal presentation
2	Identify and produce a body of photographic imagery that challenges traditional definitions of the medium through material and technical innovation
3	Demonstrate an expanded conceptual vocabulary for analysing the ontology of photographic practice
4	Exhibit work publicly and constructively participate in critical discussion using contemporary artistic terminology
5	Contextualise the semiotic possibilities of photography by responding creatively through the medium to political and social issues
6	Critically reflect in writing the theoretical basis, conceptual motivations, cultural connections and potential implications of photographic experiments

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks

The submission will consist of:

- A cohesive body of photographic work
- Critical Inquiry Essay 2500
- Process, material and technical experiment documentation portfolio / journal

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-6	Coursework	100%



Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

This module aims to furnish students with a versatile skill set, empowering them to critically engage with a dynamic discourse surrounding photography and image-making and express themselves effectively through both visual and written means. Students will lead seminar discussions, explore critical writing and theories to comprehend the evolving nature of photography.

Lectures will centre on the changing and expanding ontology of photography.

Studio-based workshops will promote unconventional approaches, challenging established methods of image-making.

Peer discussions and group critiques will serve as platforms for students to exchange insights about their photographic work.

Independent practice will afford students the opportunity to work on their photographic projects individually.

Work-in-progress reviews will track the development of these projects. Gallery visits will provide exposure to diverse photographic works, and writing workshops will enhance analytical and expressive skills.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Questioning the ontology of the photographic image
- photography's relationship to personal, cultural and political identities
- Photography as a medium that embraces and defines various fields of visual influence.
- The boundaries of the photographic image in an age of new media
- Contemporary photographic discourse and terminology
- Technical innovations in photographic and image-capture processes and materials
- Presentation, discussion and analysis of experimentation

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Bate, D. (2020), *Photography as Critical Practice: Notes on Otherness*. Bristol: Intellect Books.

Wolf, S. (2019), *PhotoWork: Forty Photographers on Process and Practice*. New York: Aperture.

Other indicative reading

Wells, L. (2021), *Photography: A critical Introduction*. 6th ed. London: Routledge.

Aperture Magazine

British Journal of Professional Photography