

Module code: MOD007285		Version: 1 Date Amended: 23/Jan/2020	
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1. Module Title	
Philosophy of Art and Image	

2a. Module Leader	
Alison Ainley	

2b. School	
School of Humanities and Social Sciences	

2c. Faculty	
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences	

3a. Level	
5	

3b. Module Type	
Standard (fine graded)	

4a. Credits	
15	

4b. Study Hours	
150	

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

are surrounded by complex imagery all the time, but many people feel confused by contemporary art and what it is 'supposed to be about'. In this module we'll address some key themes and questions that arise in the modern art scene, but that have their roots in philosophical problems of aesthetics. We will begin by co-curating our own on-line art gallery and observing the key features of a range of works of art. As part of the module we will also visit a local art gallery (free of charge). The key themes that we will study include questions about the social usefulness or relevance of art; what (if anything) separates public artworks and graffiti; how the mass reproduction of imagery might change the way we think of the 'value' of a work of art, how the idea of the portrait and the self-portrait has changed historically; issues concerning the judgement of beauty and the question of objectivity in art, and the politics of the art gallery and the choices that curators make. We will also look at the case of music as an art form 'without' imagery.

The module is designed to be highly interactive, encourages creative and imaginative responses to art works, supports independent thinking, and develops cultural and intercultural awareness. In studying this module, you will be encouraged to co-create content, undertake projects that put you in the position of real-life curators, and think about issues of identity, from the history of portraits to the modern 'selfie'.

6b. Outline Content

- Art in social and cultural context
- Graffiti and public art
- Originality and mass reproduction
- Picturing your 'self' – portraits and selfies
- The politics of the art gallery
- Artistic taste and aesthetic decisions – beauty and objectivity
- Art without images? – the case of music

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and discuss central issues in contemporary aesthetics and philosophy of art.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Distinguish the specific philosophical problems that arise in examining the psychology of aesthetic responses and the ethical and political interpretation of artworks.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply theoretical perspectives to aspects of contemporary visual culture.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate a practical understanding of the role of the art critic and the curator, and relevant transferable skills for work in this area.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	22	1-4	Weekly 2-hour lecture/seminars
Other teacher managed learning	2	1-4	Field Trip
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Structured tasks in Canvas, assessment preparation, reading and research, creating an on-line art gallery
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Art critic review and programme notes for online art gallery 1,400 words, due Week 12					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay (topic and title to be negotiated and agreed) 1600 words, due Week 12					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]