

Module code: MOD007297	Version: 5 Date Amended: 16/Apr/2024
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1. Module Title
Critical Issues and Debates

2a. Module Leader
Farzaneh Yazdandoost

2b. School
Cambridge School of Art

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

This module builds on the histories, contexts, and theories introduced at Level 4, and is designed to enable you to build a framework in which to situate yourself and your developing practice as a critical, creative practitioner.

With the support of lectures, seminars, as well as independent reading and research, you will consider your work, as well as the work of other creative professionals, within broader historical, theoretical, and critically informed contexts. You will also start to engage with the ethical considerations and responsibilities that are increasingly urgent for professionals working in the creative industries today and begin to develop an increasingly detailed theoretical knowledge of your discipline.

You will explore and examine critical issues and debates within a variety of creative practices, through examples that address, complicate and problematise key topics which you will analyse in depth. The curriculum content is responsive, meaning that learning activities are open and flexible, and function in relationship to current events, discourses, and emerging debates.

6b. Outline Content

The following list of topics will inform your lectures, seminars, reading and assessment:

- Gender, Sexuality and Inclusive Communities
- Space and Place
- Taste and Class
- Sustainability and Ethics
- Decolonisation
- Performance and Performativity
- Craft and Creativity
- The Gaze, Display and Beauty
- Digital Technology and Social Media
- Authenticity and Authorship

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

CANVAS, ARU library, online journals; trend and industry forecasting applications e.g. WGSN

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, research and critically evaluate relevant case studies in contemporary and historical critical practice.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Research, discuss and reflect upon the responsibilities of the artist/designer in the 20th and 21st centuries.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate ideas, argument and intention in appropriate written, visual and oral forms.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate ability to apply judgement and critical thinking to build argument and informed perspectives.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	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	12	1-4	12 x 1 hour lectures cross-course.
Other teacher managed learning	15	1-4	12 x 1 hour seminars, plus tutorials, site visits, formative work.
Student managed learning	123	1-4	123 hours of student managed learning, including: Group and independent research, peer group work, project development, workshops and use of making, technical and media workshops and resources.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	75 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Written Text (2000 words)

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	3-4	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Visual Essay (1000 words equivalent)

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]