

Module code: MOD011468	Version: 1 Date Amended: 26/Apr/2026
-------------------------------	--

1. Module Title
Critical and Contextual Studies 3: Creative Inquiry

2a. Module Leader
Farzaneh Yazdandoost

2b. School
Cambridge School of Art

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

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

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

Critical and Contextual Studies 3: Creative Inquiry is your opportunity to bring together everything you've learned during your degree and take it further. You will look back at your studies and identify the themes, ideas, and practices that matter most to you, and transform them into a focused, independent research project.

This module is designed to support your journey from curiosity to clarity. You will learn how to shape a research question independently, explore it through different lenses, and communicate your discoveries effectively.

You will be guided through the process step by step with lectures, workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and one-to-one supervisions. You will gain confidence in academic research in creative practice, argument building, and effective communication. These are all skills that will strengthen your professional portfolio and prepare you for your next steps after graduation: whether you decide to move into postgraduate study, work in creative industries, or any research-driven career. This module will also help provide the foundations for your Final Major Project.

Throughout the module, you will draw on a range of sources appropriate to your research to support your creative inquiry that might include: primary and secondary sources; art and design work; archives; databases; museums and exhibitions; visual and material culture; critical literature; multimedia output; your own studio practice; and industry-specific publications. Your project may reflect on, analyse, expand upon, or enhance, your own studio work and interests, however, the practice-based work included in your outcome must academically contribute to the final output in terms of the theoretical and methodological framework contextualising it.

6b. Outline Content

- Developing a research question
- Supervisions with individual project supervisor
- Evidence and Support to create an argument
- Research, Support and Evidence
- Referencing and Presentation skills
- Support Workshops
- Editing, Drafting and Proofing

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Public Domain Image Archive

WGSN: Trend Forecasting and Analysis

Vogue Archive

a-n: The Artists Information Company

In person or online access to Cambridge museums and galleries

JStor

EBooks and digital databases managed by the library

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	Demonstrate critical analysis in the interpretation and evaluation of creative, cultural and theoretical research sources.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify and research relevant creative, artistic, cultural, and theoretical contexts to your chosen research area.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Formulate a clear research question or area of investigation, and investigate it using appropriate research methods.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate ideas, arguments, and research insights clearly through an appropriate medium (such as written text, visual essay, or oral presentation), supported by relevant evidence and scholarly referencing.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Create a coherent and well-developed body of research that demonstrates independent enquiry, reflective practice, and critical engagement with relevant artistic, cultural, and theoretical contexts.

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	6	1-5	4 x lectures of 1.5 hours each
Other teacher managed learning	8	1-5	3 x 2 hour workshops 2 hours (30 mins each) One-to-one tutorials
Student managed learning	286	1-5	Lecture and workshops preparation, reading and research, assignment work
TOTAL:	300		

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	1-5	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Creative inquiry reflecting research and critical analysis 5000-6000 words					

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]
--