



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UACAGV-30-3 **Title:** Urban Culture and Modernity **Version:** 2

Level: 3 **UWE credit rating:** 30 **ECTS credit rating:** 15

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: FCA **Field:** Cultural and Media Studies

Faculty Committee approval: Curriculum Approval Committee **Date:** 9th Feb 2011

Approved for Delivery by: indicate name of affiliated institution if module will only be delivered by them

Valid from: Sept 2011 **Discontinued from:**

Contributes towards: Awards up to BA (Hons) Media & Cultural Studies

Pre-requisites: UACPRW-30-1 Media and Cultural Studies Foundations

Co-requisites: None

Entry requirements: *If the module is offered as CPD or stand alone, indicate the entry requirements*

Excluded combinations: None

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this module students will be able to demonstrate:

- A critical understanding of modern urban culture, its histories, geographies, practices, and representations.
- The ability to synthesise material from a range of critical and cultural sources to explore specific themes in the development and experience of urban culture.
- An in-depth critical knowledge around one key aspect of modern urban culture.
- The ability to present ideas and arguments relating to the module through group work.
- The ability to develop and execute a significant research project, both individually and in a small group.

Syllabus outline:

This module will ask students to think critically about urban experience – how it has been theorised, represented and lived in the era of modernity. More people on the planet now live in cities than in the countryside. Essential to the process of industrialisation, the city is not a neutral site in which human life just happens, but something that fundamentally structures the basic contours of human experience. How we view ourselves, relate to others, behave, desire, and move about have all been transformed by living in cities. Meanwhile, the media remains dominated by images and stories about the perils and pleasures of urban life.

The module is taught in two blocks. Block One explores the history and theorisation of urban life in the West. It will explore a range of themes that might include some of the following: alienation; community; gender and sexuality; race; commodification; uneven development and gentrification. This will be taught through weekly lectures, seminars and set readings. Block Two is much more student led. It will focus on a particular theme, which we will all explore together over the course of the semester. This theme will vary from year to year, but possible examples include: case studies of particular cities ('New York', 'London', or 'Paris') and how they have been represented; 'the global city'; 'the child and the city'; 'movement and the urban body'. Students will work together to develop group presentations on one aspect of this theme, and the module will culminate in the submission of an individual research project.

Teaching and learning methods:

A variety of learning strategies will be used including lectures, seminars, peer presentations, group work and independent research. Lectures will introduce ideas, map out areas of debate, give guidance on further reading and research. Seminars will be more student led and provide a forum for the discussion of theoretical ideas, responses to

specific texts or the result of students own researches. In addition, students will work in small groups to research and deliver presentations to the rest of the cohort

Reading Strategy

Set readings which all students are required to read will be provided in a Module Reader. These will be supplemented by list of journal articles and books available in the library, from which students will be encouraged to select further reading, particularly for completing assignments. In the second semester, the cohort will work together to develop an extended list of academic material, cultural texts, archival resources and popular media that relate to that year’s themed topic.

Indicative Reading List: (see guidance notes)

The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.

Highmore Ben, *Cityscapes: Cultural Readings in the Material and Symbolic City* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005)

Koolhaas, Rem, *Delirious New York: a Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan* (New York, Monacelli, 2004)

Eds Miles, Malcolm, Tim Hall and Iain Borden, *The Cities Culture Reader* (London: Routledge, 2004)

Park, Robert E, and Ernest W Burgess, *The City: Suggestions for Investigations of Human Behaviour in the Urban Environment*, (Chicago: Chicago University Press, [1925]/1967)

Wilson, Elizabeth, *The Sphinx and the City: Urban Life, the Control of Disorder, and Women* (London: Virago, 1991).

Zukin, Sharon *The Culture of Cities* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995)

Assessment

Component B, Element 2 should be recorded as the final assessment for the purposes of submitting data on non-submissions to HEFCE. (For further information please contact Academic Registry.)

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 60% B: 40%

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity (Sit)

Component A

Description of each element

Element weighting

- 1. Group presentation
- 2. Exam (2 hours)

25%
35%

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting

- 1. Research essay (3,000 words)

40%

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A

Description of each element

Element weighting

- 1. Individual presentation
- 2. Exam (2 hours)

25%
35%

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting

- 1. Research essay (3,000 words)

40%

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT (Retake): Attendance at taught classes is not required.

**Specification confirmed byDate
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)**