



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Built Form		
Module Code	UBLMJA-15-3	Level	Level 6
For implementation from	2019-20		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Architecture and the Built Environment
Department	FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Educational Aims: The suite of Advanced Cultural Studies modules in the MA Architecture course is intended to provide an independent and constructively critical forum for students to understand their own practice in the design studio within the context of contemporary canons of architectural criticism and theory. Narratives of Built Form should normally be taken before Narratives of Architectural Theory, so that students move from the critique of built form, with which they are expected to have already become familiar, on to the critique of theory.</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: This module encourages students to understand architectural form using wider frames of reference than those established by reading the statements of the building's architects or contemporary reviews in the professional press. The development of this understanding could take a number of directions: it could explore the changing perceptions and cultural significances of buildings, or the way buildings may be adapted or their uses changed over time, or the potentiality of a building to become obsolete, or the cultural references it might accrue as its structure evolves. Using this evidence, students are able to assemble a 'biography' of their chosen buildings, placing the fresh evidence gained from diligent research, hearsay and personal visits alongside the published and claims about the building as-new.</p> <p>The module will emphasise how built form can be read as part of the urban landscape, and how our readings of our environment can be seen as an act of 'deep mapping' (see Shanks M) in which evidence ranging in scale from the detail to the city and ranging in nature from story telling, performance and the gathering of fragments to formal documentation is all admissible.</p>

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Emphasis will also be placed on the interpretation of current art praxis in providing pointers as to how students might engage with and respond to their chosen sites. It is in the nature of this work that specific source material cannot be generalised, and will be tailored to individuals' needs.

In Semester 1, after introductory lectures, students are invited to make a presentation about a chosen building or site. They are invited to explore how their choices might be thematically, typologically, geographically and philosophically relevant to their studio practice (although students not working on a parallel studio module would be equally able to reflect critically on this module's critical relevance to architectural practice generally). In Semester 2 the students are tutored in groups as they prepare for the submission of a 'biography' of the building or site. Consideration will be given (within the constraints of the timetable and other factors such as health and safety) to having a closer physical engagement with chosen buildings in which individual or group visits might be undertaken.

The length of the submission should be approximately 4000 words or 12 pages with illustrations, and it should be properly referenced. Care should be taken in its presentation, and students are encouraged to develop individual approaches to format, layout and font if they as designers consider it appropriate.

Teaching and Learning Methods: In addition to the 40 hours' scheduled learning in the lectures and seminar sessions outlined above, students will be expected to work independently broadly as follows:

40 hours sourcing and reading literature. Although a detailed reading list will be published at the start of the module, students are expected to supplement this by identifying reading material that is appropriate to their chosen subject which informs students of how other architects, critics, artists have responded critically to similar sites.

10 hours visiting the site or building of their choice.

20 hours in preparation of the presentation of their buildings, sites in semester 1.

30 hours in preparation of their final submission.

Part 3: Assessment

The assessment will be divided into two parts:

25% of the marks will be awarded on the basis of the presentation made in Semester 1. The criteria for assessment here will be:

Demonstration of an understanding of the material that is being presented.

Demonstration of an ability to structure the presentation.

Demonstration of an ability to communicate the material with clarity.

75% of the marks will be awarded for the final submission at the end of Semester 2. The criteria for assessment here will be:

Demonstration of an ability to interpret a piece of built form using critical reference to appropriate scholarship and praxis.

Demonstration of an ability to structure this argument into a coherent presentation.

Demonstration of an ability to make appropriate design decisions in the presentation of the submission.

The resit will be in form of a Portfolio of Project work .

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First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	75 %	Portfolio of project work
Presentation - Component A		25 %	Presentation
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	100 %	Portfolio of project work

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:	
	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference
	Critically demonstrate how they, as architects, might further their design capacity through constructing an articulate critical basis for their work	MO1
	Make an analytical presentation about a particular building or site.	MO2
	Design and prepare a clear and coherently structured written presentation about the biography of a building or site	MO3
	Critically understand and demonstrate how their building or site analysis might relate to their own position and praxis as designers	MO4
	An adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences	MO5
	A knowledge of the cultural, social and intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings, and the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture	MO6
	A knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.	MO7
	A knowledge of how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design, and the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture.	MO8
	A knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process	MO9
	A knowledge of theories of urban design and the planning of communities, and the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present on the contemporary built environment.	MO10
A critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design	MO11	
Contact Hours	Independent Study Hours:	
	Independent study/self-guided study	100
	Total Independent Study Hours:	100

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	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	40
	Site visits	10
	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	50
	Hours to be allocated	150
	Allocated Hours	150
Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html</p>	

Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: