



Module Specification

Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Built Form

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Built Form

Module code: UBLMJA-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

Partner institutions: None

Field: Architecture and the Built Environment

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

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.

Outline syllabus: This module encourages students to understand architectural and urban 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 and sites, 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 or sites, placing the fresh evidence gained from diligent research, hearsay and personal visits alongside any published claims about the building.

The module will emphasise how built form can be (re-)read as part of an urban landscape in which evidence ranging from the detail scale to the city scale, and ranging in nature from storytelling, performance and the gathering of fragments to formal documentation is all admissible.

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.

Students are invited to consider a chosen building or site. They are invited to explore how their choices might be thematically, typologically, geographically, culturally and philosophically relevant to this module's critical reflection on architectural and urban form and practice generally. This reflection is stimulated by a series of lectures that cover these ways of looking at space and place, backed up by student led seminars and presentations as appropriate.

The critical and reflective thinking is drawn together by a final piece (portfolio) of

assessed work that presents a new reading of a place / building. This will count for 100% of the module mark. Such a piece of work will use text (approx. 1500 words) and author generated imagery (including film if appropriate) to make and present a convincing argument for a new reading of a chosen site. The student will be able to consider the most appropriate way to present this work, but will do so within the context of it being presented as part of a wider exhibition of all students' work (digital or physical as deemed appropriate by staff).

To help focus the final piece of assessed work and to ensure that a student is on the right track, an opportunity for formative feedback early in the module ('The Proposal') will set out the site choice, identify relevant literature and describe the approach and argument that is being put forward for a particular re-reading. This work is unique to each student and is developed and tutored in class. Its provenance is therefore controlled.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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 their project for formative feedback

30 hours in preparation of their final submission.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Critically demonstrate how they, as architects, might further their design capacity through constructing an articulate critical basis for their work

MO2 Make an analytical presentation about a particular building or site.

MO3 Design and prepare a clear and coherently structured written presentation about the biography of a building or site

MO4 Critically understand and demonstrate how their building or site analysis might relate to their own position and praxis as designers

MO5 An adequate knowledge of the histories and theories of architecture and the related arts, technologies and human sciences

MO6 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

MO7 A knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

MO8 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.

MO9 A knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process

MO10 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.

MO11 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

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 40 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/1FFAD314-DBA6-DD24-F980-5F66BFEDACF6.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There is a single piece of assessment:

100% of the marks will be awarded for the submission of an illustrated academic portfolio of 1500 words.

The criteria for assessment here will be the extent to which the learning outcomes are demonstrated, including:

- 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 re-sit will be in the form of the re-submission of this work

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of project work (1,500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO10, MO11, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of project work (1,500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO10, MO11, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2023-24

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MArch 2023-24