



Module Specification

Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Architectural Theory

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Architectural Theory

Module code: UBLMJR-15-M

Level: Level 7

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: Narratives of Architectural Theory should normally be taken before Narratives of Built Form, 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. Although not strictly co-requisite, it should also normally be taken at the same time as either Architecture Studio A or Architecture Studio B.

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.

In addition to the above, this module, with Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Built Form, contributes to students gaining:

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

All the above are assessed.

Students are expected to attend timetabled lectures and seminars, and contribute constructively to discussions on the work of their colleagues.

Outline syllabus: The aim of this module is to widen students' appreciation of the more general socioeconomic, artistic and intellectual culture within which architecture, as the key synthetic manifestation of the built environment, has emerged. It also requires students to think about the critical grounds on which judgements about architecture are made and enables them to develop an understanding of how, as architects, they make judgements in the design process with regard to convention and tradition and the particularities of context.

Through this study, architecture as an applied art will be seen and understood alongside other arts and philosophical praxis, and students will contextualise architectural production within the times, beliefs, ideologies and imaginings of the times in which it was created, both past and present.

The course will begin in semester one with a series of lectures which define the course's parameters and demonstrate the ways in which theoretical positions might critically inform the design process. Later in the semester students will participate in presenting group presentations on chosen themes. They will then be invited to define their own 'manifesto' of architecture and to present this to the rest of the group for discussion, and if possible structured debates on architectural positions and counterpositions. In semester two, individual students will discuss their chosen theoretical positions in guided seminars, with particular relevance to their own developing design practice. This guidance will help them prepare for their final written submission. The length of the submission should be approximately 4500 words or 12 pages with illustrations, and it should be properly referenced. Care should be taken in its presentation, and students are encouraged to move away from conventional paradigms of format, layout and font if they as designers consider it appropriate.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The course will be timetabled with one two-hour session per week over 2 semesters, totalling 40 hours' contact time for the module.

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

50 hours sourcing and reading literature. Students are expected to identify their own reading material that is appropriate to their chosen subject which informs students of how other architects/critics/artists have responded critically to similar sites

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

40 hours in preparation of their final submission.

Students are expected to attend timetabled lectures and seminars, and contribute constructively to discussions on the work of their colleagues.

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

MO1 Critically analyse and clarify, through a structured presentation, some keytheoretical concepts and grounds of criticism associated with architecture and visual culture generally

MO2 Demonstrate through a structured presentation how they, as architects, might further their design capacity through constructing an articulate critical basis for their work

MO3 Write a clear and coherently structured essay about a particular theoretical approach to architecture - and how it might relate to their own position as designers

MO4 Defend a manifesto for architecture which either describes their own current praxis in the design studio, or a praxis they aspire to

MO5 Demonstrate an ability to identify, assimilate and interpret current literature that is appropriate to the subject they have chosen to argue

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 110 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](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubl/mjr-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubl/mjr-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment will be done with only one Essay as outcome

100% 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 form an argument using critical reference to appropriate scholarship and praxis, and a reflection on the student's own current or intended praxis.

Demonstration of an synthesis ability to offer a coherent conclusion to the argument.

Demonstration of a critical understanding of the material that is being presented.

Demonstration of an ability to communicate the material and its scholarship with clarity.

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

The resit will be in form of an Essay.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Essay (4500 words with illustrations)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay (4500 words with illustrations)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] MA 2023-24

Architecture [Frenchay] MA 2022-23

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2022-23

Architecture [Sep][PT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2021-22

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2021-22