

Course Code:

PRES103

Session:

2017/18

1. Course Title:**Methodologies, Methods and Techniques**

[Stage 1 course of the MRes in Creative Practices]

2. Date of Production/Revision:

2 February 2015

3. Level:

SCQF 11

4. Credits:

30 credits comprising 15 credits for MMT Strand 1 + 15 Credits for MMT Strand 2

5. Lead School/Board of Studies:

School of Fine Art

6. Course Contact:

Ranjana Thapalyal (co-ordinator). The course is team taught.

7. Course Aims:

- To provide students with knowledge and understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
- To encourage the identification of a chosen methodology for the student's own emergent masters level research project.
- To establish the significance of historical and social context in research practice and methodology
- To introduce a range of critical theory and epistemological positions and outlooks applicable to research methodology including feminism, post-colonialism, ethnography and philosophical enquiry
- To introduce a critical framework for interdisciplinary research
- To provide examples and experience of practical applications of experimental interdisciplinary research and practice

8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, and how these can interact with various critical frameworks.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a selected methodology through an essay on its key concepts, contexts, and critical frameworks
- Select a methodology for their emergent research project and articulate reasons for this selection.
- Frame a research question adequate for a research project of significant depth
- Articulate a research problem
- Formulate a hypothesis
- Design a methodological structure for a case study
- Articulate a deeper understanding of their own discipline, its relationship to other disciplines and to key developments in critical theory
- Design a discipline specific or inter disciplinary workshop aimed at a specific participant group
- Articulate a grasp of interdisciplinary research practices, and develop an interdisciplinary research model based on their own and their peer's disciplinary backgrounds

9. Indicative Content:

Introducing methodologies, methods and research types- historical, comparative, descriptive, experimental, action, ethnographic. The nature of argument. Quantification of concepts, modes of measurement. Quantitative methods: Statistics and data mining techniques. Qualitative methods: Interview techniques and questionnaire design. Gender, race, class, post-colonial, feminist, and other relevant critical theory as methodological or contextual means for examining a research question. This material is delivered via lectures, workshops and seminars.

10. Description of Summative Assessment:**Strand 1**

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Essay	2000 words (applying a chosen methodology to a specific research question)	100	WEEK 14

Strand 2

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Critical Appraisal	2000 words (appraisal of student's own plan and rationale for a workshop devised for the formative assessment)	100	Week 14

10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Strand 1:

In January, prior to start of Stage 2, Students submit a 2000 word written paper to the RGS administrative office. It is marked by the programme leader and feedback provided via written assessment proformas sent out after the Stage 1 Examination Board.

Strand 2:

In December students submit a critical appraisal of their plan and rationale for a workshop devised for the formative assessment, with plans and rationale for furthering its impact.

11. Formative Assessment:

Strand 1: 1000 word essay examining one of the research methodologies discussed in lectures

Strand 2: Students submit a plan and rationale for workshop aimed at a specified group, in which the nature and key elements of their discipline is examined.

11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Strand 1: Students get feedback on the 1000 word formative essay prior to embarking on the 2000 word summative one.

Strand 2: Students submit the plan as described above and receive feedback via a tutorial; they are then able to act on this feedback when writing up their summative submissions.

12. Collaborative:Yes No **12.1 Teaching Institutions:****13. Requirements of Entry:**

None

14. Co-requisites:

None

15. Associated Programmes:

None

16. When Taught:

Stage 1 (September –December)

17. Timetable:

One hour per week for Strand 1; Two hours per week for Strand 2.

18. Available to Visiting Students:Yes No **19. Distance Learning:**Yes No **20. Placement:**Yes No **21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture	10 (10 sessions of one hour duration)	30 (10 to attend lectures + 2 hours prep for each)
Studio	4 (group crit)	43 (ongoing practice + prep for crit)
Seminar/Presentation	n/a	n/a
Tutorial	1	2 (tutorial + prep for tutorial)
Strand 2 Workshops	20 (10 sessions of 2 hours duration)	40 (20 to attend lectures + 2 hours prep for each)
Laboratory work	n/a	n/a
Project work		50 (developing methods and methodologies –in text and in practice)
Professional Practice	n/a	n/a
E-Learning / Distance Learning	n/a	n/a
Placement	n/a	n/a
Examination	n/a	n/a
Essay [Formative draft +summative]	1 (feedback to draft)	60
Private Study		45
Other (please specify below) Group and/or individual visits to galleries, libraries, public lectures, etc.	0	30
TOTAL	36	300

22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:

Group and/or individual visits to galleries, libraries, public lectures, etc.

23. Additional Relevant Information:

The MMT course is delivered in two connected strands. This allows for a combination of approaches to training in research method and methodology, in order to encourage an awareness of the wide variety of epistemological and methodological positions through which a research question can be examined.

Strand 1 comprises an introduction to some key methodological approaches and attendant methods and techniques for conducting and presenting research. Research terminology is discussed and students encouraged to articulate their research interests in the form of an emerging research question within a particular theoretical framework.

Strand 2 comprises workshops related to the Strand 1 lectures. The methodologies encountered are examined via application and discussion. Throughout the course, in both strands, the role of cultural and political positions in designing, conducting and presenting research is considered.

Each Strand has its own formative (non-marked) and summative (marked and graded) assignments.

(Extracted from guidance for students on the MMT 2012-13)

24. Indicative Bibliography:

Set by tutors for individual sessions, to augment the research methodologies texts on the MRes indicative reading list