

**Course Code:**

TBC

**1. Course Title:**

Design Theory: Culture, Context and Contemporary Practice

**2. Academic Session:**

2011/12

**3. Level:**

SCQF 11

**4. Credits:**

15

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

School of Design

**6. Course Contact:**

Paul Stickley

**7. Course Aims:**

The aim of the course is to enable students to understand 'design in the 21<sup>st</sup> century': how the domain is changing and rapidly developing in new directions. The interdisciplinary nature of design practice will be a focus: its relationship to technology and science, cultural change, new aesthetic practices and new production models. The course will provide students with an understanding of both the theory and contemporary practice of design. This knowledge will be applied in a short, defined project which students will carry out collectively.

**8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding and knowledge of contemporary design theory and practice, and its relation to their own work;
- discuss design, and the relationship of their chosen specialism to the broader field;
- demonstrate collaboration and self-direction through the development and management of a project of research;

- present research findings in an appropriate visual, verbal, and written format.

**9. Indicative Content:**

Lecture and seminar subjects will be driven by contemporary developments in the design sector, but are likely to cover the following:  
 What is design theory?  
 Theorising design practice  
 Cutting-edge research and practice in design

**10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

For this course, students must submit:

- Either a 2500 word written essay (this should include examples of visual work, where appropriate, and a bibliography);
- Or an annotated portfolio of research sources, including a 500 word contextualising statement.

Note: project-dependent work may alter in the light of particular project requirements.

**10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- demonstrate a critical knowledge of contemporary design theory and practice;
- show an understanding of the practice and theory contexts in relation to which their project is positioned;
- exhibit appropriate advanced design practice skills;
- demonstrate good command of verbal, written and visual outcomes.

**11. Formative Assessment:**

N/A

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

N/A

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

N/A

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

None

**14. Co-requisites:**

None

**15. Associated Programmes:**

MDes Communication Design  
 MDes Design Innovation  
 MDes Graphics/Illustration/Photography  
 MDes Interior Design

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 1

**17. Timetable:**

N/A

**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		
Studio		35
Seminar/Presentation	14	14
Tutorial	1	1
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	100
Other (please specify below)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>150</b>

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

N/A

<b>23. Additional Relevant Information:</b>
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This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to contemporary design and design theory, organisations and debates. Lectures will be delivered by leading practitioners and researchers in the field, including a number of staff from across the School of Design. There will be a particular focus on how design is changing in terms of technological, cultural and aesthetic practices.
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<b>24. Indicative Bibliography:</b>
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N/A
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