

MODULE TITLE: Cultural Context of Architecture IV
MODULE CODE: ARC306 (1374)
MODULE LEVEL: 2
CREDIT POINTS: 10
MODULE STATUS Compulsory for BA Hons Architecture
SEMESTER: 2
LOCATION: Belfast
ELEARNING www.billthompson.info
PREREQUISITES:
CO REQUISITES:
MODULE CO-ORDINATOR: Dr Bill (William J) Thompson RIBA
TEACHING STAFF Bill Thompson

HOURS:
Seminars 11 hours
Coursework (typically) 10 hours
Lectures 11 hours
Independent learning, typically 68 hours
Total 100 hours

ACADEMIC SUBJECT: Architecture

RATIONALE:

Architects must have some idea of the way in which architecture is mediated by the immediate professional social and cultural environment in which they work (praxis) and by the wider historical, social and cultural environment in which users and other makers live.

AIMS:

- To develop the students capacity to apply knowledge of history, socio-cultural issues and theories to wider readings of architectural interests as urban and landscape issues
- To develop the student's capacity for the use of text and illustration.
- To encourage students to deepen their awareness of historical, social, cultural and theoretical issues and the application of these to urban and landscape issues.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

*100% of the assessment will be by **coursework** to allow essay writing as the mode of assessment and include feedback to the students during the semester interactively with seminars/lectures.*

A successful student will be able to show that he/she can:

Knowledge and Understanding

- K1 Identify and apply an understanding of relationships between personal, historical, social and cultural circumstances and architectural interest in urban, rural and landscape issues
- K6 Identify and apply historical, social and cultural paradigms to urban, rural and landscape issues

Intellectual Qualities

- I1 Cognize paradigmatic socio-cultural influences on urban and rural configurations
- I3 Identify and comment on the role of the designer in making urban and rural configurations
- I5 Identify and comment on the effects designed interventions may have on users
- I6 Identify and justify relationships between local and global influences on designs for urban and rural configurations

CONTENT:

Students will collate and collect a portfolio of urban and rural ideas in the form of two A4 page collages of images and text at various scales for a concept (given in the assessment criteria section below (eg: new urbanism, the garden city, radial city, man about town, drugs and city etc. etc.)).

Seminars and Lectures

Culture and Social Action, the underlying theme of the enlightenment and the development of popular 'culture'

4 lectures

4 seminars

Boundary-Node relationships as the mechanics of meaning (the manifesto, the building and the details)

3 lectures

3 seminars

Theory and Contemporary Practice in a multicultural pluralistic environment

4 lectures

4 seminars

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

Use of library and learning resources on campus sites and on the www

Seminars and Lectures: usually a presentation of PowerPoint slides followed by open discussion and the presentation of topics explored by students as indicated from week to week

Mini exhibitions by students exhibiting their urban and rural collages weekly in the corridor around 4th floor

Illustrated Referenced Essay

ASSESSMENT:

The assessment of this module will be 100% continual assessment, marked against the assessment criteria.

One **collage**

Max 15% of total

One **Essay** of 3000 words submitted in week 10 will assess the student's grasp of tools for thinking behaviour (theory) and ability to integrate discussion and to reference both ideas and applications in town and country.

Assessment element	LO	ARB	overall %
One submission of two collages A4 size wk 10	K1, I1		15% of mark
*One illustrated essay of 3000 words week 10	K6, I3, I5, I6	CC2	85% of mark

***Essay Title: The Socio-Cultural Vortex**

Each student must show that they know that ideologies and global influences may conflict in a complex and sometimes paradoxical yet discernable manner to the identities of indigenous peoples (a term that is in itself contentious when compared to humanity as a whole) in the matter of urban design, art, identity, landscape design and architecture.

***Students must note that the essay of 3000 words examines the ARB requirement for CC2 - The histories and theories of architecture and urban design, the history of ideas, and the related disciplines of art, cultural studies and landscape studies**

READING LIST:

Essential Reading

Addis B, Building, Phaidon Press, 2007

Inglis D; Hughson J, Confronting Culture, Cambridge, Polity, 2003

Rapoport A, Culture Architecture and Design, Chicago, Locke Science Publishing Co, 2005

Background and elective Reading:

Arendt H. The Human Condition. Chicago and London. University of Chicago Press. 1958

Coleman N. Utopias and Architecture. Abingdon. Routledge. 2005

Dunnett N Hitchmough J. The Dynamic Landscape. London. Spon. 2004

Harre R, The Singular Self, Sage Publications Inc, 1998

Jencks C. Theories and Manifestos in Architecture, Wiley, West Sussex, 2004
LeGates and Stout, The City Reader, Routledge, 2007
Madanipour A. Design of Urban Space, Chichester, John Wiley, 1996
Mallgrave H F (ed). Architectural Theory Volume 1. Malden; Oxford; Victoria. Blackwell. 2005
Sadler S. The Situationist City. Cambridge Ma; London. MIT. 1999

Some lectures/seminars will include references to works you will find useful to your own essay submissions and/or for general interest.

Schedule of lectures/seminars/presentations

Wk	Lecturer	Title
1	Bill Thompson	Artificial Intelligence
2	Bill Thompson	The Public Realm
3	Bill Thompson	Transport Systems
4		special projects no seminars this week
5	Bill Thompson	Manifestos And Polemics
6	Bill Thompson	Ideology And Utopia II
7	Bill Thompson	Value Systems
8	Bill Thompson	Hermeneutics
9	Bill Thompson	dissertation lecture
10	Bill Thompson	dissertation lecture
11		
12		
13	Bill Thompson	dissertation lecture
14	Bill Thompson	dissertation lecture

Summary ARC306B2

Architects must be able to interpret and explain the differences in designing for the detailing of buildings through to designing for urban and/or rural as knowledge linked to individual, historical, social cultural and functional manifestations of ideas in the form of utopias and/or ideologies as well as just pragmatic answers to need.

The emphasis on interpretation and concepts of identity will be key. Each student will produce a short essay on contemporary subjects that inform and complicate design in all interpretations of 'difference' indicating clearly their use of reference works and opinions that they use in forming their approach. Students will be expected to indicate personal preferences in their use of references and justify that selection in text so that a casual reader could reasonably be able to discuss their choices with them.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Appendix A:

Portfolio collection of concepts in urban and rural landscapes

Each student is required to carry out the following procedure:

Your task is to locate and structure information in the form of image and text so as to create two sheets of A4 paper relating to a concept of urban and rural design.

The point of the exercise is to see how clearly you can refer to a design concept and also provides a diverse resource for yourself if your work was ever to become part of an exhibition for example or put on the web

Assessment criteria for this task is made available below.

This coursework must be completed by week 10 and counts as 15% of the total marks for this module

This year you are to create two A4 paper graphic collages to show the possibilities of drugs being given the same urban usage as alcohol – consider for example the familiarity with beer and good beer, wine and fine wine, spirits and the cultural significance in terms of class with Armagnac and Cognac as digestifs. You will probably need to look up terms on the web and you may find the following book useful:

Greenfield S, ID, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 2008.

Appendix B:

Essay assessment criteria and requirements for submission

the essay is to be **3000** words and must include illustrations/graphics.

The Socio-Cultural Vortex

Each student must show that they know that ideologies and global influences may conflict in a complex and sometimes paradoxical yet discernable manner to the identities of indigenous peoples (a term that is in itself contentious when compared to humanity as a whole) in the matter of urban design, art, identity, landscape design and architecture.

The essay is a chance to explore comments by architects and groups of architects that seek to extend beyond the boundaries of one building to city and urban design or contemporary thinking about such matters as well as the thoughts and discoveries of other individuals who may not be architects but you need to remember that you are studying architecture!

In addition you are expected to find one other commentator/critic commenting on the work of your selected architect/group/ concept/ author (note the inclusion of author which means that the author may not necessarily be an architect) etc etc. That commentator/critic should have some credibility in the architectural community – say, a journalist or historian or theorist of some kind - who can be cited - referred to. You are expected to integrate this second critical comment into your essay merging

1. your architect/group/author whatever and their statement
2. your own opinions
3. your second commentator's comments/opinions

The point of the exercise is to consider how other individuals comment on the fact that what people say they try to do may or may not be achieved or even possible when they try to manifest their thinking by printing or writing or televising especially when suggesting that such thoughts may be translated into architectural practices.

Many of you will experience difficulties because you have rarely thought of the world as something that you refer to using language in such a way that the language is not simply a reference to reality but another phenomenon that adds itself to the relationship you have to the world in such a way that you can imagine other people having a similar relationship so long as they consider the phenomena you use in language to license the same or similar feelings as you intend them to produce. As a simple example if I say I like eating, you may agree but not to the exclusion of all else, if I say I like eating frogs legs, you may not agree but you may agree that it is not impossible to actually like eating frogs legs. Putting the words together have differing results that are not entirely to do with the words alone since some do and some don't like the same construct 'eating frogs legs'. We can take the same simple example set against say the golden section. I do not like the golden section is meaningless without an interpretation of what those words might mean and that requires a lot of interpretation as to what each individual understands by the words and whether or not they license some innate connection to a spirit world or nature or mind or forbid it as metaphysics. The essay is a chance for you to try to understand this simple example of saying and liking and sharing, using some architectural stuff whenever possible.

This essay will count 85% towards the total marks for this module

Hand in week **10** of the semester on the day of the seminar at the time of the seminar

ARC306B2B 08/09

Student Number

15% of the total mark will be for the **collage** as follows:

Effort of exploration 9-10very good 7-8 good 5-6 Interested 3-4 adequate 1-2 less than adequate	1	
Relationship to Architecture 9-10Excellent 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
Illustration material 9-10excellent selection of images and visually interesting 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
complexity and/or sophistication 9-10strong / profound and/or witty comment 7-8 ditto but not exceptional 5-6 ditto but ordinary 3-4 ditto reasonably 1-2 ditto adequately	1	
people content 9-10excellent references to the fact of 'people' 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good ditto 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	3	
PRESENTATION 9-10Clear layout with intelligent use of material 7-8 Clear layout with adequate use of material 5-6 Obviously considered layout but dull 3-4 Minimal consideration of layout 1-2 Thrown together	3	
	WEIGHTING	MARK
		100

ARC306B 08/09

Student Number

85% of the total mark will be given as follows for the essay:

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION 9-10 Discursive and Original 7-8 Engaged and Original 5-6 Interested and Original 3-4 Interested 1-2 Competent	1	
UNDERSTANDING 9-10 Excellent comprehension of the nature and significance of the topic 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	2	
INTERPRETATION 9-10 Excellent demonstration of meaning based in and around the topic 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	2	
APPLICATION 9-10 applied to architecture and/or architectural subject brilliantly 7-8 ditto very well 5-6 ditto well 3-4 ditto reasonably 1-2 ditto adequately	2	
EVIDENCE OF READING 9-10 excellent correlation between text/visuals and sources 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good ditto 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
REFERENCING 9-10 excellent referencing of text and web 7-8 very good ditto 5-6 good ditto 3-4 reasonable 1-2 adequate	1	
PRESENTATION 9-10 Clear layout with intelligent use of visual material 7-8 Clear layout with adequate use of visual material 5-6 Obviously considered layout but dull 3-4 Minimal consideration of layout 1-2 Thrown together	1	

WEIGHTING MARK

