

1.	Programme Title	BA (Hons) Architecture BA (Hons) IDEAs
2.	Unit Title	Dissertation
3.	HE Level	UG 3 - FHEQ Level 6
4.	Unit Code	ARC16301
5.	Credit Value of Unit	30
6.	Unit Type	Mandatory
7.	Unit Tutor	Richard Patterson

8. Indicative Notional Learning Hours			
Staff – Student Contact		Independent Study Hours	
Classes (e.g. lectures, seminars and supervised group activity)	60	Independent Study (e.g. project development, reading, research and work on online forums)	100
Supervised Access to Resources	0	Preparation for Assessment	90
		Unsupervised Access to Resources	50
Total	60		240

9. Unit Introduction

Building on the methods and techniques of analysis and enquiry and subjects covered in units ARC16101 and ARC16102 students will propose a topic for the dissertation. The topic, an appropriate area of research and reading list, are to be agreed with their tutor. There will be an opportunity to pursue the topic during the summer vacation, followed by a defined period of independent study involving review, consolidation, extension and application of their knowledge of the field of architecture, landscape or design. Arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts will be critically evaluated in order to develop a coherent, structured argument.

Students will present the results of their study in the form of a dissertation, in which they demonstrate their ability to frame appropriate questions and produce soundly judged conclusions. Alternative formats to a conventional written dissertation (e.g. visual, virtual, sound, 3D) are encouraged and supported, but must have been negotiated and agreed with the tutor and Unit leader at the outset (the end of the previous academic year (Level 5).)

Students are encouraged to choose a topic relevant to their studio work and their developing knowledge in architectural and design history and theory. As part of tutorial process they are advised on their selection of an appropriate topic and the scope and extent of the study.

10. Aims of the Unit

- To develop skills in framing a research question leading to a dissertation in a subject that is relevant and useful to students' approach to their design work
- To develop in-depth knowledge of discourse surrounding a particular topic of relevance or interest to the students' approach to their design work
- To learn to work independently and manage time appropriately

11. Indicative Content

This is a document-based unit involving a substantial degree of independent definition of topic and study. Students are supported in this activity through initial lectures on research and dissertation writing, followed by tutorials and advice on the balance of personal interest and professional significance. Topics will include the following:

- Formal elements of a dissertation (structure, referencing, bibliography etc.);
- Reviewing and refining a lead question (hypothesis) and research strategy;
- Information gathering, organisation, editing and retrieval;
- Analysing research material;
- Using conceptual models in developing an argument;
- Applying an iterative process of questioning and reflection;
- Developing tools for self-management;

12. Unit Learning Outcomes

In order to successfully satisfy the learning outcomes students are required to engage with the process of learning. The learning outcomes refer to developing the following attribute and must be read in conjunction with it:

GA1.4 Ability to evaluate evidence, arguments and assumptions in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse relating to architectural culture, theory and design.

Learning Outcome	Marking Criteria	
On completion of this unit students will have:		
1. Sought, evaluated and summarised an agreed range of historical and theoretical texts, demonstrating understanding through description of the authors' perspectives and critical appraisal of the arguments presented;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Experimentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Competence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication & Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Personal & Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working
2. Critically situated a major theme from the relevant discipline - architecture, landscape, design - in the context of other contemporary forms of intellectual and cultural practice and the fine arts; (ref: GC2.1, GC2.2, GC3.1, GC3.2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Knowledge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experimentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Competence <input type="checkbox"/> Communication & Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Personal & Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working

<p>3. Defended a critical interpretation of an architectural, design or topic through structured argument.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject Knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Experimentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Competence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication & Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal & Professional Development <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative and / or Independent Professional working
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Please see the Project Brief for a more detailed explanation of the relationship between learning outcomes and marking criteria.

13. Learning and Teaching Methods

This unit will be delivered using a combination of:

- Briefings
- Lectures
- Project work
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Group work
- Online activity
- Individual Presentations and critiques
- Group presentations and critiques
- Self-directed independent study
- Other (describe below)

14. Assessment Methods

Assessment Task

Dissertation of max. 7000 words

Assessment Structure

This unit is assessed holistically (100% of the unit).

All learning outcomes must be achieved to pass this unit.

15. Reading and Resource List

Borden, I and K. Rüedi Ray (2014) *The Dissertation: a guide for architecture students* Abingdon and New York: Routledge

De Bono, E. (2009) *Six Thinking Hats*, London: Penguin

Gillian, R. (2012) *Visual Methodologies: an Introduction to researching with visual materials* Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Ltd.

Hall, S., J. Evans and S. Nixon (2013) *Representation: Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices* Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Ltd.

Highmore, B. ed. (2008) *The Design Culture Reader* London & New York: Routledge.

Mirzoeff, N. (2002) *The Visual Culture Reader* Routledge;

Pears, R. and G. Shields (2010) *Cite Them Right: The Essential Referencing Guide* 8th ed. Palgrave Macmillan.

Ravensbourne *How to reference your academic work*. Available on Intranet: https://intranet.rave.ac.uk/download/attachments/95453309/Referencing_Guide.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1317804212937

Further Reading and Resources

Further reading and resources will be proposed by the individual student and agreed with the tutor based on their topic.