Module Title: Dissertation
Module Code: AR7406
Level: 7
Credit: 30
ECTS credit: 15
Module Leader: John Carter
Additional Tutors: Trish Andrews, Zoe Quick, Pat Borer & Gwyn Stacey

Pre-requisite: Architectural analysis through writing 1
Pre-cursor: None
Co-requisite: None
Excluded combinations: None
Is this module part of the Skills Curriculum? No
University-wide option: No
Location of delivery: Centre for Alternative Technology

Main aim(s) of the module:
The dissertation provides an opportunity for students to explore, assimilate and synthesise learning related to a topic of their choice, which can but does not have to inform their final design project. The dissertation will enable students to develop appropriate theoretical and research methodologies, consider the ethical implications of their work, thoroughly investigate their chosen topic, develop a logical and coherent argument and support it with rigorously evaluated and reliable data and draw conclusions and understand their impact on the wider knowledge base and or community. The dissertation does not necessarily involve original research or primary material, but students may carry out a small original research project using primary material and demonstrate that they have addressed the same criteria described above.

Main topics of study:
- Research design principles
- Establishing questions, aims and objectives
- Selecting appropriate research methods (qualitative and quantitative research approaches)
- Practical, ethical and cultural issues in research
- Writing a research proposal
- Managing your research
- Research review and secondary research – investigating different resources and sources
- Data collection - questionnaires, interviews, observations, experiments, models etc.
- Data analysis – quantitative and qualitative methods
- Communicating research

Learning Outcomes for the module - at the end of this module, students will be able to demonstrate:
(note reference numbers e.g. GC3.1, relate to ARB criteria of accreditation)

Knowledge of
1. the cultural, social, intellectual histories, theories and technologies that influence the design of buildings (GC2.1)
2. the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social, and technological aspects of architecture (GC2.2)

Understanding of
3. a selected subject relating to architecture and sustainability
4. 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

Ability to
5. formulate a clear research question and systematically and rigorously undertake research with a clear purpose and appropriate research methods
6. critically analyse the relationship between theory, practice and research related to a particular topic relating to architecture and sustainability
7. critically evaluate ideas using the process of writing to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain ideas, hypotheses and speculations
8. critically evaluate complex data and develop a sound and professional judgment
9. synthesise findings by applying rigorous logic, creative thinking and self-critical appraisal of the scope and rigour of the research undertaken
10. systematically organise, structure and manage an extended investigation at an advanced level for a chosen topic
11. write clearly, concisely and professionally using appropriate writing styles and referencing

Teaching/learning methods/strategies used to enable the achievement of learning outcomes:

- Lectures will introduce the principles and aims of a dissertation and guide students to develop a research proposal and dissertation outline with supporting book reviews
- Students will develop a proposal and submit it for formative and summative feedback to ensure the scope and topics covered are appropriate for the time scale available and the assignment requirements
- Workshops will provide students with the opportunity to develop writing skills, understand referencing, develop a research outline and programme, peer review other students’ work
- Students will be allocated a supervisor with knowledge of their research topic
- Group and one to one supervisions will support each student with formative feedback to develop their research thinking and writing skills and develop their dissertation to their full potential.

Reading and resources for the module:

Core

Recommended
Gray, C. and Malins, J. (2004), Visualising Research: A guide to the research process in art and design, Ashgate, Aldershot
Assessment methods which enable students to demonstrate the learning outcomes for the module:

Dissertation (10,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes demonstrated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1-11</td>
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<tr>
<th>Indicative learning and teaching time (10 hrs per credit):</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Student/tutor interaction, some of which may be online: hours 20</td>
<td>Lectures, Seminars, supervisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Student learning time: hours 280</td>
<td>Background reading and preparation, Assignment preparation</td>
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<td><strong>Total hours 300</strong></td>
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