Critical Practice: Theory

Module Descriptor

Module Code:	LSA7CPT
Version:	V1.0
Status:	Final
Date:	23/04/2025

Summary Module Details

Module Title: Critical Practice: Theory

Module Leader: Ruth Lang

Module Mode: Full time face to face

Semester/Term: 1, 2 and 3

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 48 hrs (24%)

Self-directed Study Time: 152 hrs (76%)

Assessment Type

Critical Practice Manifesto: 100%

Module Summary

This module is the school-based component of the two inter-related Critical Practice modules. While the module Critical Practice: Placement examines how the student is currently practising, Critical Practice: Theory asks for students to articulate an ideal of how they would like to practise in future. It relates contemporary practice to theories and ideas from within architecture and beyond it, examining the role of the architect in larger contexts, from the construction industry and the creative economy through to humanity and the geosphere. Each student will produce a Critical Practice Manifesto which will articulate a personal of intent for their future practice.

Taken on which Programmes

MArch Designing Architecture (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Pre-requisites

All modules on the programme must be completed and passed in the sequence outlined within the programme structure section of the programme specification except where progression has been approved by the Board of Examiners due to mitigating circumstances.

Module Aims

- Introducing a range of theoretical frameworks to conceptualise the profession and discipline of architecture, the module presents both established and cutting-edge thinking, with the aim of enhancing a student's judgement in understanding how contemporary architecture is shaped by knowledge and ideas.

- By triangulating between the worlds of theory and practice, the module aims to develop in students a critical understanding of the agency of the architect in relation to others in the construction industry and creative economy their professional and moral responsibilities, and the value architectural design skills can bring to the built environment and other fields.

- Ultimately, the module aims to enable students to articulate a personal definition of their professional purpose, making conscious their ambitions about their future career, and encouraging commitment to an ultimate destination in order to strategise a route to it.

Module Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students are expected, within a personal proposition about their future professional life, to be able to:

LO1.   Interpret the influence of history and theory on the spatial, social and technological aspects of architecture

LO2.   Critically define the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and wider society

LO3.   Explain the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural designs, including land law, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation

LO4.   Illustrate ways in which buildings can relate to their local context, including history, scale, use and connections Synthesise wide-ranging research to compose clear, logically argued and original written work that advocates a position in relation to architectural theory, culture and design

LO5.   Identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect

Indicative Module Syllabus

The two adjacent Critical Practice modules create a critical collision between speculation about architecture and speculating within architecture. This premise is at the heart of the LSA philosophy: that the dialogue between the process of designing and the trajectory of practising is common to the education of an architect at all stages of their career.

Commencing with a briefing at the start of the year, the module is principally progressed through two lecture series, which present students with a diverse spectrum of inputs. The student's personal direction for the Critical Practice Manifesto is developed through seminars and tutorials.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5	**Assessment 1** Critical Practice Manifesto	2,500 – 3,000 words	100%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

Indicative bibliographies for each module can be found in Module Booklets.

Module tools

Students will learn through the following range of teaching and events:

- A briefing introducing the key learning principles of the module;

- Lectures from a range of voices, such as from practitioners, academics, thought-leaders and entrepreneurs;

- Writing workshop;

- One-to-one tutorials.