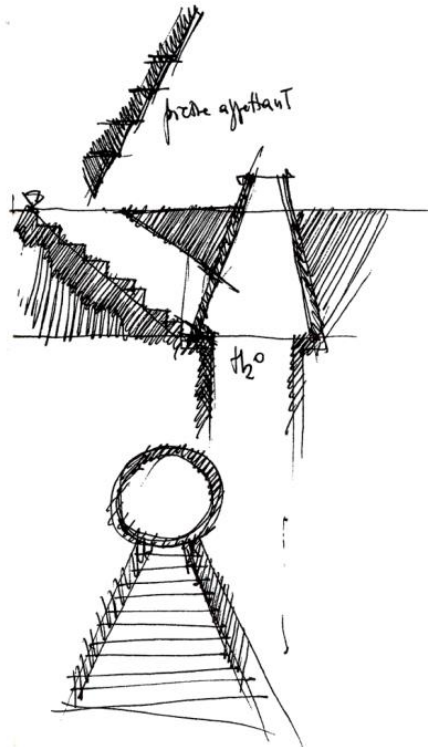


perché non si sa dettata  
da quale perfezione di-  
mente, di macchina o di  
sapienza -  
E il contrasto con la natura  
perché il taglio della pietra  
sembra di un'altra civiltà -  
Sono sempre affascinato  
da questo sistema di  
discesa mediante scale  
per entrare in uno spazio  
che è illuminato dalla  
luce zenitale - E qui il  
rapporto è tra il cielo  
e l'acqua, così in due  
anni in gennaio nell'anno  
in cui la luce entra  
perpendicolarmente  
nel cono e nell'acqua -



Extract from Aldo Rossi's Quaderni Azzurri

## C&CS L6 DEGREE ESSAY: DISSERTATION

Module code: 6CTA1093

Semester A+B

Credits: 30

Module Leader:

Davide Pisu [d.pisu@herts.ac.uk](mailto:d.pisu@herts.ac.uk)

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### Project Key Dates:

Date	Time	Activity	Assessment Weighting	Learning Outcomes
28/10/24	In class as timetabled	Research Proposal In class presentation	formative	KU3, KU4, IS2, IS3
13/01/25	On or before 23:59	Submit Research Folder	formative	KU3, KU4, IS2, IS3, PTS4, PTS5
24/03/25	On or before 23:59	Submit Dissertation Canvas upload	85%	KU3, KU4, IS2, IS3, PTS4, PTS5
24/03/25	On or before 23:59	Submit 3 short reviews Canvas Upload	15%	KU3, KU4, IS2, IS3, PTS4, PTS5
28/04/25	-	You will receive summative feedback + mark via Canvas	100%	-
20/06/25	On or before 15:00	REF/ DEF submission Canvas upload	Refer to above.	Refer to above.
18/07/25	-	You will receive REF DEF feedback + mark via Canvas	100%	-

## INTRODUCTION

The CCS6: Degree Essay: Dissertation module is related to another level 6 module: Final Project (IAD) for the entire academic year and intend to form the contextual theory for your Final Project.

You should base your Final Project and CCS6 Dissertation on one of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Global Goals. Here is the link to the official page, in order for you to start off your research: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

The final outcome of this module will be an extended essay of 5000 words (+ or - 10%) with related images. The module gives you the opportunity to conduct in-depth research that relates to your studio practice and builds on the skills and knowledge you have already developed in critical and contextual studies so far in your degree. The topic you choose can relate to your Final Project and support the design but can also emerge from a personal interest or a topic that you wish to further explore. The module is designed to give you the exciting opportunity to write an entire academic essay on a topic of your choice, and along this brief you will find a series of

This might be the last time you write an academic essay, so this is the time to really make it your own and also to make it relevant to who you want to be as a practicing designer out in the world, post-university. The module is structured in three phases, with feedback and assessment points at each phase related to the Learning Outcomes.

## MODULE STRUCTURE

### PHASE 1

The first phase is all about exploring what you might like to research and write about and will involve you coming up with a topic, a research question and a visual manifesto. You will conduct initial research to scope out your field and produce a **Research Proposal** (deadline November 9th). This proposal will describe what you intend to do and outline some of the key texts on your topic. The research proposal will be composed of a research question and a short abstract (150-250 words), an indicative bibliography and a visual manifesto, comprising a series of images, either selected or produced, that must effectively and eloquently communicate your research proposal. You will present your proposal to your tutor and peers;

you will receive verbal feedback that same day.

## PHASE 2

The second phase is focused on research. You will be working towards the submission of a **Research Folder** (deadline in January), which includes a research question, a long abstract (250-500 words) an annotated bibliography and a drafted dissertation's plan. You will be expected to have conducted in-depth research into a range of sources suitable to academic research at this level, and you will demonstrate this in the annotated bibliography. As aforementioned, you will write an essay plan showing the structure of your final essay and the contents for each section.

You must read at list one book on the subject you are writing on, and at least two journal articles, and refer to them during the presentation.

## PHASE 3

Finally, you will complete the **5000-word essay (+ or - 10%)**. This constitutes **85%** of your mark for this module. The essay will communicate the findings from your research and build an argument. You will be expected to have a visual element to your essay – at the very least including images within your text. The essay must be properly referenced and be entirely your own work to pass. Throughout Semester A and B you will be asked to attend tutorials. The dissertation will build on the first two phases of the work and show a consistent and coherent research work has been produced.

## ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT

Each week the school will host an event with guest speakers: industry's experts that will present some of their work and will introduce their design process to students – you are called to select three of these authors as the design for the essay: as a school we host a range of activities that foster our engagement and help us thrive as a community. Attending and taking active part in these activities means building a better place to learn and grow as professionals. You will choose three designs from three of our guests and will write a short review of **500 words (+ or - 10%)**. It is fundamental that in these short essays you focus on aspects that you find interesting and link the designs to a broader personal view – you must express your own, qualified opinion as an interior designer on the work of your peers.

## STUDIO ACTIVITIES

You will follow tutorials with your tutor during the year. They will take place throughout both semester A and B, and are subject to booking online. Please consider that once your time slot is arranged you are required to attend the tutorial. Absences won't be tolerated unless you are affected by extraordinary circumstances. In any case, you will have to inform your tutor of your absence (or special requirements) as your slot will have to be made available to other students.

***It is important to remember that this is a 'ring-fenced' module that MUST be included in the calculation of your final degree classification.***

### Studio Work and Tutorials

You will work both independently and with the tutor(s) in order to practically develop the project (concept, drawings, models, images etc.).

### Seminars

The tutors will lead classroom activities such as case studies and group discussion to facilitate your critical thinking and intellectual skills.

### Lectures

The tutors will introduce a range of relevant topics to support your studies.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

A **5000-word dissertation (+ or - 10%)** in pdf format, Canvas upload.

## **INDICATIVE READING LIST**

Eco, U. (2015) How to write a thesis, Cambridge: MIT Press

Barrass, R. (1995) Students Must Write: a Guide to Better Writing in Coursework and Examinations, London: Routledge.

Clanchy, J. & Ballard, B. (1998) How to Write Essays: a practical guide for students, Melbourne: Longman. De Havilland LRC 78.179 CLA

Cottrell, S. (2008) The Study Skills Handbook, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. De Havilland LRC 378.170281 COT

Greetham, B. (2008) How to Write Better Essays, Links to an external site. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Mann, S. (2011) Study Skills for Art, Design and Media Students, Harlow: Longman. De Havilland LRC 707.11 MAN

Northedge, A. The Good Study Guide, Links to an external site. Milton Keynes: The Open University, 2005.

Soles, D. (2005) The Academic Essay: how to plan, draft, revise and write essays, Abergele: Studymates. De Havilland LRC 808.066 SOL

## **HOW YOUR WORK WILL BE ASSESSED?**

Your work will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

Learning Outcomes - Knowledge and Understanding: (Successful students will typically...)

- Apply critical thinking through analysis and communication that underpins the historical and contemporary theories of architecture, art and design, technology and human science. (KU3)
- Demonstrate an advanced awareness of urban design, planning and urbanism appropriate to the discipline. (KU4)

Learning Outcomes - Skills and Attributes: (Successful students will typically...)

- Integrate critical thinking, research and analytical skills. (IS2)
- Contextualise and convey ideas and intentions eloquently through visual, oral and written media. (IS3)
- Demonstrate the ability to conceptualise and convey complex ideas using a range of media. (PTS4)
- Integrate and communicate a comprehensive understanding and awareness of the user in relation to buildings, the built environment and place. (PTS5)

## **Grades Descriptors and Reference Grades:**

(Undergraduate reference scale to assist coarse-grained marking of individual pieces of work)

- Excellent / Outstanding Work: (First Class equivalent at L5 and L6): 95\*, 85
- Very Good Work: (First Class equivalent at L5 and L6): 77, 72
- Good Work: (Upper Second Class equivalent at L5 and L6): 68, 65, 62
- Clear Pass: (Lower Second Class equivalent at L5 and L6): 58, 55, 52
- Marginal Pass: (Third Class equivalent at L5 and L6): 48, 45, 42
- Marginal Fail: (LO's not evidenced): 38 (F), 35 (F), 32 (F)
- Clear Fail: (LO's not evidenced): 25 (F)
- Little or Nothing of Merit: (LO's not evidenced): 10 (F)

\*Reference Grades above 90, should be awarded for work of truly exceptional quality and used very sparingly.

Engagement by the student in all aspects of Teaching and Learning and Assessment are essential to ensure successful completion of the module, students with an **OVERALL** Module Grade below 20% will not be offered the opportunity for a referral and will be required to repeat the module if permitted.

#### **Penalties for Late Submission:**

- For first-sitting or deferred coursework, for each day (or working day for hard copy submission only) for up to five days after the published deadline, coursework submitted late (including deferred coursework, but with the exception of referred coursework), will have the numeric grade reduced by 10 grade points until or unless the numeric grade reaches or is 40.
- Referred coursework submitted after the published deadline should be awarded a grade of zero unless an extension has been granted.

**Referrals:** For students who are referred due to failure on first-sitting of one or more elements of assessment, only the assessment elements which have been failed and then passed at referral will be capped to 40. The module grade overall will not be capped.

**Re-enrolment:** Following re-enrolment on any module, the grades awarded shall be those actually achieved in the assessment. Grades will not be capped except where there are penalties for other circumstances (such as late submission).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning.

By submitting you are declaring that your submission is entirely your own work. If you have cited from other sources or in any way included material that was not produced by yourself, those sources must be acknowledged. Failure to acknowledge where work is not your own may result in an allegation of academic misconduct. For more information, see:

<https://ask.herts.ac.uk/assessment-offences-and-academic-misconduct>

The use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated artwork is not authorised in this assignment because the learning outcomes of the project require the student to demonstrate their own design skills. Any artwork created using AI will not be assessed and will not get any marks. For the purposes of this assignment, you need to create the required artwork yourself using the skills and techniques relevant to the project. Any digital illustrations you create will need to be stored in a PSD (or equivalent) layered format and must be available for inspection on request. Any work that is found to have used AI when it is not authorised will be treated as

plagiarism and result in formal academic misconduct proceedings and a failing assignment grade.