

MSc handbook

2009

MSc students are asked to keep a diary as part of their student experience so that process may be examined at the end of their course attendance period.

process is more important to us than product because we design knowledge and distanciate ourselves from it as a process of design.

the diary must record in an everyday way the interests of the student and interesting experiences provided not just by attending the university but in everyday life as well.

the diary must also record intentions of the student towards exploration in thought and action, in other words notes relating to thinking and visits to places explored.

the diary will be an important reference during reviews of the students work and levels of profundity are expected to be set by diary entries and will be examined as part of the individual seminar sessions that are part of the course.

the MSc regulations can be accessed on the web at www.billthompson.info

the way the course works is modular and module coordinators are responsible for handouts and module booklets in that they provide them. it is advisable to ask for these early in each semester when attending seminars or by emailing the appropriate module coordinator so that you have what is constructed as knowledge in each module.

students must note that they must inform the course director if they are in difficulties with the course or any of its modules and they must do this as soon as they realise the difficulty however it is advisable to wade through the regulations for a while to see if you can find an answer to a problem since in general the course is designed to be enjoyable and appropriate to your skills as students

also remember that the library is there to help you study and you must avail of its staff in an appropriate manner at every opportunity whilst you have this resource at your disposal

if you need to ask a question do not hesitate to contact me on bill@billthompson.info

rules for game, belief in play

the handbook is set out in the following way

p.1-2 cover and caveat on feedback

p.3 notes on contents

p.4-5 basic understandings to be assimilated

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basic understandings to be assimilated

the studio is supposed to be the meeting place of people, ideas and things.

MSc students, including the teachers, must consider the way in which everyday language binds everyone together but at the same time keeps them apart.

in order to understand people we must first understand speaking and writing as ways in which people express themselves, find out about others and find out about the surroundings in which they experience life.

to avoid being enigmatic we need to refer to some of the expressions made by other students who consider language to bind humanity yet allow difference between individuals.

good references for discussion are

Weiss G, *Refiguring the Ordinary*, Indiana University Press, Indianapolis, 2008

Hass L, *Merleau Ponty's Philosophy*, Indiana University Press, Indianapolis, 2008

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Welton D, *The Other Husserl*, Indiana University Press, Indianapolis, 2008

Extracts from these books appear on the web at

www.billthompson.info

read the extracts.

we will be working in the studio alongside other students doing landscape and arb/riba style architecture.

it is important that we use everyday language and realise that profound discourse can occur as ordinary and special (and trivial) depending on the situation in which we are placed.

the most important consideration to remember is that we are knowledge workers in a world that is increasingly in need of individuals who can with skill and passion both engage with and distanciate themselves from language games. language here is used in a special way to be understood as people using phenomena to construct knowledge knowingly.

the place in which we do this is not a space but a field of appearances in which individuals and surroundings transmit and receive experience as part of a situation.

situations have two parts, the facts and the beliefs, and these are understood only by appearances. beliefs and facts together make an horizon within which language is possible. language exists within a metaphorical boundary (the horizon) that is constructed out of facts and beliefs about those facts that can be shared by other individuals.

when we construct knowledge knowingly it is with an understanding of the facts and beliefs necessary for such constructs that is the skill of interpretation.

interpretation allows individuals to understand constructs and deconstruct them or engage with them.