



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

## The Art of Climate Change

<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<b>Jonathan Hodgers</b>
<b>What will you learn from this Elective?</b>	<p>By the end of this module, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critically explore how the arts interpret, represent, and influence global responses to climate change.</li><li>• Gain interdisciplinary understanding of key theories and methods from ecocriticism, environmental aesthetics, and climate communication, applied across literature, film, performance, and visual culture.</li><li>• Develop analytical and creative capacities through close reading, comparative critique, contextual research, and collaborative experimentation.</li><li>• Work across disciplines, engaging with diverse perspectives and communicating ideas within heterogeneous student teams.</li><li>• Integrate theory and practice by translating aesthetic and ethical reflection into applied, community-linked projects that foster environmental awareness, empathy, and behavioural change.</li><li>• Strengthen the Trinity Graduate Attributes by: i) Thinking independently: forming original arguments about art, ethics, and climate; ii) Acting responsibly: applying artistic and ethical insight to sustainability challenges; iii) Communicating effectively: expressing interdisciplinary ideas in writing, dialogue, and creative formats; iv) Developing continuously: reflecting on one's learning process, values, and role as a creative citizen.</li></ul>
<b>Student Workload</b>	<p>The total student workload for this module is c. 122 hours. This is made up of several components. Students spend 22 hours in class. In addition, they are expected to complete 50 hours of self-directed study. A further 50 hours is allocated to assessment.</p>



### Assessment Components

1. Individual ePortfolio (60%). Each student maintains a digital ePortfolio on MS OneNote, including weekly preparatory reflections, analyses, and creative responses. Students submit their best three entries plus a reflection entry for assessment (four in total, anticipated to be approximately 350 words in length, or 1400 in total).

2. Group Living Lab Project (40%). Interdisciplinary teams design and present an arts-based response to a sustainability challenge on or near campus. It will comprise three elements: i) Short concept pitch outlining rationale, sustainability link, and artistic medium, ii) Artefact/Creative output (e.g., zine, podcast, presentation with audio-visual component, photography exhibition), and iii) Brief process log documenting the link between the project and module readings and aesthetic theory. The written component shouldn't exceed 600 words. The presentation of the artefact should occupy no more than 10 minutes of class time at the end of term.

### Indicative Reading List

Auge, Andrew J., and Eugene O'Brien, editors. *Contemporary Irish Poetry and the Climate Crisis*. Routledge, 2022.

Demos, T. J., et al., editors. *The Routledge Companion to Contemporary Art, Visual Culture, and Climate Change*. Routledge, 2021.

Goodbody, Axel, and Adeline Johns-Putra, editors. *Cli-Fi: A Companion*. Peter Lang, 2019.

Manzo, Kate. 'The Usefulness of Climate Change Films'. *Geoforum*, vol. 84, Aug. 2017, pp. 88–94.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2017.06.006>.

Schneider, Birgit, and Thomas Nocke, editors. *Image Politics of Climate Change: Visualizations, Imaginations, Documentations*. Transcript Verlag, 2014.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Critically interpret how different art forms represent, mediate, or challenge narratives of climate change.
2. Identify and analyse the aesthetic, emotional, and ethical dimensions of climate-related cultural texts.
3. Evaluate the rhetoric and/or framing strategies used in media about climate.
4. Collaborate with peers to conceptualise and design an arts-based response to a real sustainability challenge.
5. Reflect on one's personal positioning, emotions, and values in relation to the climate crisis and its cultural expression.