



The Art of the Megacity

Module Coordinator	Dr Nicholas Johnson, School of Creative Arts
What will you learn from this Elective?	This module will help you to think more deeply about the challenges arising from mass urbanization (the growing number of megacities over 10+ million inhabitants) through works of art related to eight of these cities. It will enrich your understanding of historical, contextual, and cultural awareness of some of Earth's largest cities, while also exposing you to new artworks and new methods of reading them. Finally, through the assessments, it will help you to collaborate more effectively in small groups and support you in reflecting meaningfully on the art of the megacity and your own learning about it.
Student Workload	24 hours (2 hours/week + delivery week): contact hours 24 hours (2 hours/week): online content & activity 30-40 hours (3/4 hours/week): reading, listening & watching assigned content 10-20 hours: preparation for 10 minute presentation (group assessment) 10-20 hours: preparation for reflective writing (individual assessment) Total: 98-128 hours (total 5 ECTS)
Assessment Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formative Assessment: Weekly contributions to the class knowledge base about that week's topic, either in class orally or in online discussion forums.• Summative Assessment 1 (40%): A ten-minute presentation (created by a 4 to 5 person group) for the public about a megacity/artwork relation NOT studied on the syllabus, expressed either through a creative response or in an academic-style analytic presentation.• Summative Assessment 2 (60%): Short reflection (solo authored) about how a student's individual work on this particular city/artwork presentation (and the course overall) altered their perspective; 1000-word written submission.
Indicative Reading List	Short texts from fields of engineering, sociology, economics, and geography will contextualize the frame of what is changing/challenging about megacities. Nicholas Whybrow's <i>Performing Cities</i> (2014) will provide an infrastructure for seeing how cities themselves perform, and how creative/performance studies methodologies can contribute to understanding cities in context. Literature and works of art will then be explored in the context of certain megacities, for example New York (Jane Jacobs vs. hip-hop), Lagos (Teju Cole), Mumbai (Suketu Mehta vs. Danny Boyle), Mexico City (Roberto Bolaño), etc.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to demonstrate that they can:

1. Articulate a relationship between megacities (i.e. cities of 10+ million inhabitants) and art (i.e. works of literature, film, music, digital media) of, through, or in such cities;
2. Explore online resources to increase their fundamental historical, contextual, and cultural
3. awareness of some of Earth's largest cities;
4. Employ a range of methodologies in the analysis of both artworks and cities;
5. Collaborate effectively with a small and diverse group on a ten-minute public presentation;
6. Reflect meaningfully on how exploring the art of the megacity has altered
7. their perception or awareness, beyond their prior disciplinary perspective.