

# DI202-15 Living with Materials 2

**23/24**

**Department**

Design Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Jane Webb

**Credit value**

15

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Materials are foundational to our very existence, in how we exist, perceive ourselves and others, our environments, our histories and our futures. This module explores approaches to materials through a transdisciplinary lens and an international perspective. It combines theoretical and practical approaches that call on both the sciences and the humanities to consider and interact with materials. Students will be able to pursue a diverse series of routes assessing the lives of materials through their qualities and transformations, and will learn from a range of people who work professionally with materials in their academic and professional careers.

### Module aims

To understand the ethical, political, social, economic and cultural aspects of the material world.

To develop methods for the creation of a personal taxonomy of the qualities of materials.

To establish and hone methods of verbal, visual, material and textual communication in relation to ideas about, and qualities of materials.

To evolve diverse methods of research that enable the effective analysis and understanding of materials (whether practical or theoretical).

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

This 15 CATS module will take place during the third term to allow for a more flexible timetable. The curriculum will cover: revisiting resources, theories of making, alchemical practices, transformations, new materials, old materials, future materials, rethinking subject and object, and a materials festival.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Recognise, identify and record the scope and complexity of material worlds.
- Describe and critically assess the interplay of materials with ourselves, our physical, social and psychological worlds.
- Critically analyse and interrogate the complexity of material worlds through multidisciplinary methods.
- Demonstrate awareness of the ethical consideration of materials.
- Develop methods of textual, visual, material and verbal communication about materials.
- Develop effective and diverse research methods appropriate to both the theoretical and practical investigation of materials.

## Indicative reading list

Anusas, Mike, and Tim Ingold. "Designing Environmental Relations: From Opacity to Textility." *Design Issues*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2013, pp. 58–69., [https://doi.org/10.1162/DESI\\_a\\_00230](https://doi.org/10.1162/DESI_a_00230). Accessed 5 Jan. 2023.

Anusas, Mike, and Tim Ingold. "The Charge against Electricity." *Cultural Anthropology*, vol. 30, no. 4, 2015, pp. 540–554., <https://doi.org/10.14506/ca30.4.03>. Accessed 5 Jan. 2023.

Banham, Reyner, et al. *Wood. Rethinking Material*. Vol. 17, JOVIS Verlag GmbH, 2021.

Bergson, Henri, and Arthur Mitchell. *Creative Evolution*. Digireads.com Publishing, 2011.

Bonsiepe, Gui, et al. *Flow of Forms / Forms of Flow: Design Histories between Africa and Europe*. Vol. 37, Transcript Verlag, 2018, <https://go.exlibris.link/sRrM7TXD>, Accessed 4 Jan. 2023.

Canales, Jimena. *The Physicist and the Philosopher: Einstein, Bergson, and the Debate That Changed Our Understanding of Time*. Princeton University Press, 2015.

Candlin, Fiona, and Raiford Guins. *The Object Reader*. Routledge, 2009.

Davis, Heather. *Plastic Matter*. Duke University Press, 2022.

Ghosh, Ranjan. *The Plastic Turn*. Cornell University Press, 2022.

Gibson, James J. *The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception*. Routledge, 2015.

Hallam, Elizabeth, and Tim Ingold. *Making and Growing: Anthropological Studies of Organisms and Artefacts*. Ashgate, 2014.

Ingold, Tim. *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2022.

Ingold, Tim. *IMAGINING FOR REAL: Essays on Creation, Attention and Correspondence*. Routledge, 2021.

Ingold, Tim. *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*. Routledge, 2013.

Ingold, Tim. *The Perception of the Environment: Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill*. Routledge, 2021.

Ingold, Tim. "The Textility of Making." *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2009, pp. 91–102.

Ingold, Tim. "Toward an Ecology of Materials." Annual Review of Anthropology, vol. 41, no. 1, 2012, pp. 427–442.

Jaeger, C. Stephen. Enchantment: On Charisma and the Sublime in the Arts of the West. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.

Janacek, Bruce. Alchemical Belief: Occultism in the Religious Culture of Early Modern England. Penn State University Press, 2021.

Karana, Elvin, et al. Materials Experience 2: Expanding Territories of Materials and Design. Butterworth-Heinemann, 2021.

Karana, Elvin, et al. Materials Experience: Fundamentals of Materials and Design. Butterworth-Heinemann, 2014.

Smith, Kurt. Matter Matters: Metaphysics and Methodology in the Early Modern Period. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Solanki, Seetal. Why Materials Matter: Responsible Design for a Better World. Prestel, 2018.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## **Research element**

Students will be considering diverse material qualities, relationships and transformations through a range of theoretical and practice research methods. Much of the practice will be experimental and investigative.

## **Interdisciplinary**

Exploring materials comes from such diverse disciplinary positions as literary studies and chemistry. We will be using multidisciplinary tools, texts and methods to investigate materials.

## **International**

We will be engaging with international contexts and materials and hope to work with people who are engaged with material development across the world.

## **Subject specific skills**

Material manipulation skills.  
Process mapping skills and vocabulary.  
Material based vocabulary.

## **Transferable skills**

The acquisition and assessment of diverse research methods.  
Communication using textual, verbal, visual and material methods.  
Group working skills.  
Collaborative skills.  
Curatorial skills.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (8%)	
Seminars	4 sessions of 2 hours (7%)	
Tutorials	1 session of 15 minutes (0%)	1 session of 15 minutes
Practical classes	5 sessions of 2 hours (9%)	
Other activity	7 hours (6%)	
Assessment	75 hours (69%)	
Total	109.25 hours	

### Private study description

Students would be expected to engage with reading and visual research in preparation for classes.

### Other activity description

Materials Festival. The 7 hours represent preparatory work for the festival and could be done at different times by the student.

## Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Equipment and project costs	Materials costs		£75.00
Field trips, placements and study abroad	Travel and visiting speaker costs	Department	£0.00

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Material Practice	60%	50 hours	Yes (extension)
This assignment can be done as either a largely practical assignment (e.g. the development of new materials or the physical analysis of materials) with 2000 word write up or as a purely theoretical analysis of the development of a new material, or reuse of an old material or process for 4000 words. This would be an assessment of its usefulness and possible applications, as well as the more academic connotations of the materials transformation, selection or application.			
Materials Festival	40%	25 hours	No
To produce a critical display/exhibition that curates the examination of certain qualities/politics/applications of materials. The physical presentation will be accompanied by a short verbal presentation.			

## Feedback on assessment

The module includes seminars, tutorials and studio practice (practical classes) and would have many opportunities for informal feedback on student ideas. After completion of assignments, students would have the option of a verbal tutorial to 'feed forward' in order to aid their preparation for Year 3. As standard they will have written feedback on assignments.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8A2 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
  - Year 2 of LA99 Liberal Arts
  - Year 2 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
  - Year 2 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
  - Year 2 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
  - Year 2 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
  - Year 2 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
  - Year 2 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
  - Year 2 of LA80 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
  - Year 2 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
  - Year 2 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
  - Year 2 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy

- Year 2 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies
- UVCA-LA98 Undergraduate Liberal Arts with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA85 Liberal Arts with Classics with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA72 Liberal Arts with Design Studies with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA79 Liberal Arts with Economics with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA78 Liberal Arts with Education with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA88 Liberal Arts with English with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA77 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA76 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA86 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA90 Liberal Arts with History with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA98 Liberal Arts with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA84 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA74 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA89 Liberal Arts with Philosophy with Intercalated Year
  - Year 2 of LA87 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies with Intercalated Year