

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Final Design Thesis

Please note that this course specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2023-24 Academic Year.

Course Code:	HECOS Code:	Academic Session:
UDPF201		2023-24

1. Course Title:
Final Design Thesis

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
Academic Council December 2023	Mackintosh School of Architecture	N/A

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
60	11	Miranda Webster

8. Associated Programmes:
Diploma in Architecture

9. When Taught:
Semester 1 and 2

10. Course Aims:
The course extends design skills within a rigorous creative studio environment and provides the opportunity to explore architecture, demonstrate strategic and critical thinking and develop a personal approach to design through a self-directed comprehensive design project.

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:
At the end of the course each student should have the ability to demonstrate and/or work with: Category 1: Knowledge and Understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge that covers and integrates most, if not all, of the main subject areas of the discipline of architecture – including their features, boundaries, terminology and conventions• A critical understanding of the intellectual and aesthetic content of selected buildings to substantiate architectural judgements• A coherent expression of a critical approach to making architecture at this time.• An ability to pursue an independent line of enquiry• Researched, critical and detailed evaluation of the briefing and performance of buildings applied to the self-directed design project.

Category 2: Practice – Applied Knowledge and Understanding

- Architectural judgements that have been explored critically and to a conclusion
- The ability to plan and compose buildings that are self-selected and directed, and demonstrate a range of investigations and more detailed resolution.
- Explicit strategies for structural design, environmental design and for the choice of materials that together contribute the architectural expression of the self-directed design project.
- Research and critically evaluation of the social, economic, political and cultural factors that influence the self-directed design project
- *Demonstrate reflective evaluation over a sustained period through evidence based thesis argument and synthesis with design proposal.
- Demonstrate breadth and depth of learning over a sustained period in relation to self developed architectural hypothesis.
- Demonstrate development of highly complex design proposals with integrated technology benefitting from design iterations over a sustained period.

Category 3: Generic Cognitive Skills

- Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to issues which are at the forefront or informed by developments at the forefront of information.
- Deal with complex issues and make informed judgements in situations in the absence of complete or consistent information

Category 4: Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills

- Communicate on an expert level in a variety of roles and contexts.
- Communicate using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge or expertise.

Category 5: Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others

- Exercise autonomy and initiative in carrying out a self-directed programme of study.
- The ability to manage time and physical resources in relation to self- directed programmes of study as an individual and as a group member.
- Take account of Health & Safety regulations in studio practice and adhere to safe working practices.
- Collaboration with peers and others in sharing knowledge and researching their self-directed design project
- Deal with complex ethical and professional issues and make judgements on issues not addressed by current professional ethical codes and practices.

12. Indicative Content:

Students are expected to undertake a self-directed project of the design of a sustained and thoroughly researched building of reasonable complexity and ambitious architectural intention, encapsulating a critical architectural position and maturity of judgement.

Typically the thesis, programme and site are student selected, reflecting personal architectural interests, and are of a scale commensurate with demonstration the required synthesis of skills and knowledge of a student to achieve ARB/RIBA Part 2 exemption and on the threshold of entering the architectural profession.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

All learning outcomes for the Course are assessed through exhibition and portfolio submission.

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Portfolio and Exhibition	Examined through Portfolio and Exhibition Both elements are required to provide a complete submission and will be assessed holistically in conjunction with one another.	100	Semester 2 Week 12

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Learning level outcomes stated for course must be achieved, and ability to fulfil these is graded against the marking scheme (see Code of Assessment).

Work is assessed by exhibition, accompanying portfolio and documentation. It is the student's responsibility to prepare and produce work to allow the discussion and development of work through the session, and edit, prepare and produce a final exhibition for assessment. The work exhibited should be supported by design studies, reports precedent studies and sketchbooks as appropriate to the thesis and design proposal.

The submission is assessed in three stages, firstly by the teaching team for the course, then by the internal examination board, and finally through exhibition and portfolio, which are reviewed by to an external examiner.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Verbal feedback is given at regular tutorials. Written feedback given at reviews and following the interim submission.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

An interim submission of work is made at towards the end of semester 1, coinciding with PGT stage 1.

The work is assessed by the teaching team and an advisory grade and written feedback is given. This grade is advisory and does not contribute to the final grade at the summative assessment point.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
120	600

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

Timetable:

Start of Semester 1: General introduction

End of semester 1: Interim submission / formative assessment

End of semester 2: Final submission / internal presentation and External Examination

16. Pre-requisites:

Successful completion of stage 4 or equivalent

17. Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
18. Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
19. Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
20. Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	No
20.1 If yes, then please enter the names of the other teaching institutions:	
N/A	

21. Additional Relevant Information:
N/A

22. Indicative Bibliography:
Key stage 5 texts: Sennett, R 2019 - BUILDING + DWELLING : ETHICS FOR THE CITY.
Bibliographies will be specific to individual topics of study.