

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Curatorial Practice 1

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 2024-25 Academic Year.

Course Code:	HECOS Code:	Academic Session:
PCUR101		2024-25

1. Course Title:
Curatorial Practice 1

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2023	School of Fine Art	N/A

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
40	Level 5, SCQF Level 11	Dr Karen Di Franco and Dr Alexandra Ross

8. Associated Programmes:
Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)

9. When Taught:
Stage 1

10. Course Aims:
<p>The MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) Programme jointly run by The Glasgow School Of Art (in which its studio is housed) and Glasgow University aims to build a creative study culture and environment for a rewarding learning experience. A range of learning opportunities are offered throughout the programme, appropriate to the aims of each Stage.</p> <p>This Stage 1 Course is designed to give you a broad introduction to curatorial practice in context, and to set out some of the key parameters that determine particular curatorial approaches, platforms and outcomes. You will be introduced to key histories and contextual debates, as well as a range of professional skills, and you will engage with experienced curators and arts professionals as you begin to identify and locate your own interests.</p> <p>You will undertake a curatorial project as part of a group - beginning, through this, to articulate curatorial approaches, locate resources to support your work, develop contacts and consider how to engage different publics. The emphasis for project work in Stage 1 is placed on encouraging experimentation, an agile and productive approach to curating and a peer-supportive working environment.</p>

In addition to this, you will undertake research on your own areas of interest and write a Context Review that will identify key references, across theory and practice. Through the Context Review you will begin to articulate either a research focus, a set of questions or a curatorial approach, which will form the basis of your project work in Stage 2.

Independent study and research will underpin the development of your own work, both curatorial and written submissions, and it is expected that you will dedicate substantial time to this throughout the Course. All students are supported through tutorial meetings, as well as peer-critique sessions.

This course is designed to enable you to:

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of key histories and contexts pertinent to curating, through a critical engagement with key debates, perspectives, texts and platforms for practice and discussion;
- Engender your understanding of the role and the place of the curator within the visual arts infrastructure and the various capacities and skill-sets – critical, production, administrative, budgetary, inter-personal– through which curators work;
- Encourage creative and inquiring approaches to curatorial practice through a collaborative project;
- Enable you to initiate an independent, self-directed exploration of various modes of curatorial practice and to begin to locate your own curatorial interests;
- Enable you to begin acquiring a core body of skills and attributes, including critical inquiry, research capacity and project planning, and apply these to the development of your independent work;
- Enable you to develop your awareness of Health and Safety regulations impacting on curatorial practice;
- Encourage you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of ethical good practice and your ethical responsibility in the curation of projects;
- Support you to engage with the visual arts sector in Glasgow and Scotland more widely, in relation to UK-wide and international contexts;
- Enable you to begin developing key contacts with artists and other arts professionals, and forming the peer networks.

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify and evaluate the broadening role of the curator in relation to the visual arts, and their key relationships with artists or audiences;
- Evidence your engagement with the discourse and field of literature on contemporary curatorial practice, and an ability to apply this in relation to key texts and debates;
- Harness your knowledge of the visual arts sector in Glasgow and Scotland more widely, in relation to UK-wide and international contexts;
- Demonstrate growing critical understanding of curatorial project development and apply and implement key skills, such as project-planning, budgeting, fundraising, press communication;
- Evidence an awareness of Health and Safety issues that may arise in the curation of projects;
- Demonstrate an awareness of ethical good practice and your ethical responsibility in the curation of projects;
- Demonstrate an ability to undertake

12. Indicative Content:

This course comprises three strands: a) historical, contemporary and theoretical perspectives on curatorial practice, b) independent project development, and c) critical engagement with core aspects of professional practice.

The teaching is organised around:

- A Lecture Series supported by Seminars, introducing a range of curatorial subjects;
- Professional Skills Training, covering key aspects of production work;
- Tutorial and Critique Sessions, where you will receive feedback on your work as it is developing; and
- A Study Day, focusing on a topic of contemporary relevance.

The teaching is timetabled in blocks and interspersed with the presentation of Project Work, curated by students in groups, either in the studio or at a public venue of their choosing.

From the outset, you will also have access to a dedicated studio space, and you will be actively encouraged and supported to test and develop projects alongside practising Fine Art students.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Project	Curatorial project	50	Semester 1, Week 9
Context Review	3,000-word survey of selected literature and other references	50	Semester 1, Week 13

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Project

Working in groups of 3-5, students will collectively curate and deliver a public event in their Studio, spaces within GSA, or at a venue of their choosing in Glasgow. Students will be allocated a slot at the beginning of term. The event can be, but is not limited to, an exhibition, performance, film screening or talk.

A number of tutorials and meetings with the Course Tutors will support the development of these projects. The Project will be assessed via submission of evidence of the practice and documentation of that practice, to include a written reflection on the project, its aims and how these have been achieved.

Context Review

This essay provides a summary of the independent research you have undertaken towards the development of your own curatorial work and proposes a research focus, a set of questions or a curatorial approach for you to carry forward. You will identify 4-6 key references that can range from exhibitions, public events and curatorial practices to specific works by artists, critical theory and other writing.

The grade awarded for the above assessments results from a diagnostic breakdown of learning achievements, strengths and weaknesses and is accompanied by a written commentary.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement.

Feedback is given on independent project work and throughout the writing process (draft submissions) by tutors, during tutorial appointments and critique sessions. In this way feedback is an ongoing process and integral to the teaching and learning methods.

There will be a formal Formative Assessment point at the midpoint of the term with evidence of development and progression with feedback provided. This formal Formative Assessment point is the Progress Review, through which the student will undertake a self-evaluation of their progression. The Progress Review will take place between weeks 8 and 11.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Feedback will be presented through tutorial appointments and critique sessions throughout the course. At the midpoint of the term you will be asked to present your work for formative assessment followed by feedback in relation to development and progression. This will include assessment of draft writing as well as practical projects.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:**Formal Contact Hours**

40

Notional Learning Hours

400

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

A guiding principle of the programmes pedagogical strategy is that learning and teaching is actively informed by the teaching staff's professional practice and research. All Curatorial Practice tutors are practising curators, theorists and / or artists.

Teaching and Learning Methodology

The programme is structured around the core principle of the integration of theory and practice. The methods of teaching explore the inter-relationships of the theoretical with the practical. The teaching is collaborative between staff from the University of Glasgow and Glasgow School of Art. The programme is built around four core teaching strategies: the lecture / seminar, professional skills training, the discussion of practice-based work (through tutorials and peer sessions) and the workshops/study days.

In Stages 1 and 2 (Curatorial Practice 1 and Curatorial Practice 2) the core of the theoretical teaching is delivered through the mode of the lecture / seminar, effectively 5 lectures per term followed by seminar discussion. You will also have a minimum of three tutorials during that Stage and one critique session.

The study days are either staff initiated or student initiated (although the expectation is that during Curatorial Practice 1 the study day will be staff initiated moving towards student initiation during Curatorial Practice 2) and construct a space in which the theoretically focused lecture / seminar programme and the more practically focused tutorials (group and individual) can come together, thus creating an active and engaging space for the students to critically analyse the areas of contemporary curatorial practice under consideration at that time.

The core of the learning is focused around the growth of an independent curatorial practice and this is supported throughout the term with the development of knowledge and independence gained through the different aspects of the teaching.

Critical discourse in the School of Fine Art and the School of Culture and Creative Arts is valued as a key learning and teaching tool and is embedded in the activities above. Critical discourse is crucial to the transfer of knowledge, contextualising individual practice, as well as fostering a culture of reciprocal learning within the student cohort.

Professional practice is an integral part of studying at the School of Fine Art and is embedded with the course curriculum of the stages of the programme, and further supported by the Careers Service. It provides you with the opportunities, experience and skills to engage professionally within the local, national and international art world and curatorial contexts.

Timetable:

- Historical and contextual perspectives (5 sessions – each 1 hour lecture / 1 hour seminar, location: GSA or UoG)
- Professional skills workshops (4 sessions – each 1-2 hour)
- Independent project development (minimum 3 tutorials, location: GSA or UoG; 1 Critique session, location: GSA)
- Critical engagement with professional practice (1 all-day Study Day, featuring professional practitioners and in-depth presentations on particular projects, location: GSA or UoG)

16. Pre-requisites:

A good Undergraduate Degree in a relevant subject (normally 2:1 or higher although a lower classification may be considered where other areas of the application are strong) or equivalent professional or life experience.

A good level of understanding of contemporary art, relevant to the applicant's cultural context. Candidates will undertake an interview before selection.

Candidates are considered on the quality of the following aspects of their application: Personal statement, previous relevant experience, references and performance at interview.

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?	Yes
20.1 If yes, then please enter the names of the other teaching institutions:	
Glasgow University (School of Culture and Creative Arts)	

21. Additional Relevant Information:

N/A

22. Indicative Bibliography:

Issued via Canvas including recommendations for purchase.

A list of key readings can be requested from the Programme Leader.