

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification**

**Course Title: MFA Core Course IV: Theorising Studio Practice**

*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.*

<b>Course Code:</b>	<b>HECOS Code:</b>	<b>Academic Session:</b>
PMFA302		2024-25

<b>1. Course Title:</b>
MFA Core Course IV: Theorising Studio Practice

<b>2. Date of Approval:</b>	<b>3. Lead School:</b>	<b>4. Other Schools:</b>
PACAAG August 2020	School of Fine Art	N/A

<b>5. Credits:</b>	<b>6. SCQF Level:</b>	<b>7. Course Leader:</b>
20	11	Professor Henry Rogers <a href="mailto:h.rogers@gsa.ac.uk">h.rogers@gsa.ac.uk</a>

<b>8. Associated Programmes:</b>
Master of Fine Art

<b>9. When Taught:</b>
Stage 3

<b>10. Course Aims:</b>
<p>The course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable you to work with a significant level of autonomy in the production of a research-led written submission or equivalent negotiated project;</li> <li>• Enable you to further develop the ability to identify and formulate new critical insights into established practice;</li> <li>• Further encourage informed critical reflection upon the relations between your own practice and current issues within the field of fine art;</li> <li>• Encourage you to devise and explore alternative modes of submission for the effective presentation of research material;</li> <li>• Encourage you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of ethical good practice and your ethical responsibility in the public presentation of work.</li> </ul>

<b>11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:</b>
<p>Upon successful completion of the course you should have the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the relations between creative practice and theory;</li> </ul>

- Demonstrate an attitude equipped to identify, conceptualise and define new problems and issues within historical/critical discourse, especially in terms of your relation to creative practice;
- Execute a significant project of original research and development in the production of an extended essay or equivalent negotiated project;
- Demonstrate serious and extended critical engagement with current issues in fine art practice;
- Exercise autonomy, independence and initiative in the conception and production of an extended essay or equivalent negotiated project.
- Make informed decisions concerning appropriate means for presentation of research material.

### 12. Indicative Content:

Integral to the development of your creative practice during this stage is the initiation of a research project that builds on the work done in Stages 1 and 2 that will enable you to theoretically underpin your own creative practice within a contemporary context, hence the title *Theorising Studio Practice*. This is a form of research *in practice* in which you are required to research into and think through your own practical production while investigating appropriate aspects of critical theory and/or philosophy and context. This will normally take the form of a written submission (c.5,000 words) e.g. a formal extended essay on a topic of your own choice or an equivalent negotiated submission emergent from your own creative practice. This submission thus enables you to further explore and examine those research interests that inform your creative practice, and thereby understand the practical and theoretical aspects of your study as 'related-objects-of-thinking'. The production and development of this submission is supported by tutorials with members of the MFA teaching team.

### 13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

The attainment of learning outcomes relevant to Core Course IV will normally be demonstrated by an enhanced written submission in the form of an extended essay (c. 5,000 words) or equivalent negotiated project. All such work will be assessed by members of the staff team. All submissions are double marked. A grade in accordance with the Code of Assessment will be awarded.

The assessment results for all courses will be brought together at an internal parity meeting where the MFA assessment panel will agree a total grade.

At the internal exam board, the aggregated grade and the decision on a final proposed grade will be confirmed.

At the final exam board, which includes the external examiners, the final recommendation for the MFA award will be confirmed.

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Extended essay or equivalent negotiated project (5,000 words)	Submission of an extended essay or equivalent negotiated project and accompanying Critical Self Evaluation.	100%	Week 14 (Semester 1, Year 2)

	All work is double marked.		
<b>13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:</b>			
As detailed above.			

<b>14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:</b>	
Twice during the course of the year you will contribute work to a critical feedback session (group critique).	
You participate in a student-led Research in Progress seminar presentation around week 10 of Year 2 regarding your chosen research topic and your approach to the development of the submission as an extended essay or equivalent negotiated project. You may be given written warning at this time if your research is deemed to be underdeveloped.	
During the second semester you write a reflective Critical-Evaluation Report (Progress Review) on your progress to date in relation to Core Courses III and IV, referring to the Learning Outcomes at this stage and your progress so far. Upon reviewing the Progress Review MFA staff feedback via a tutorial and a written response to your Critical Evaluation Report (Progress Review), outlining those areas in which you may need to improve. If you wish to discuss the Progress Review Feedback Report, you may request a meeting with a member of the MFA staff team.	
Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement.	
<b>14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:</b>	
As detailed above.	

<b>15. Learning and Teaching Methods:</b>	
<b>Formal Contact Hours</b>	<b>Notional Learning Hours</b>
20	200
<b>15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:</b>	
N/A	

<b>16. Pre-requisites:</b>
Successful completion of Stage 2: Postgraduate Diploma or equivalent in which students achieve and average grade across Stages 1 and 2 of C3 or above or a comparable grade from another HEI.

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

<b>21. Additional Relevant Information:</b>
N/A

**22. Indicative Bibliography:**

Individual bibliographies are generated by each student, with staff guidance, to suit the needs of their specialist research topics.