

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: History of Architecture and Urban Studies (HAUS) 3



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 2025-26 Academic Year.

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
HAUS3103		2025-26

Course Title	History of Architecture and Urban Studies (HAUS) 3
Course Contact	Florian Urban

Credits	20
SCQF Level	Level 9
When Taught	Semester 2

Associated Programmes	Bachelor of Architecture with Honours
Lead School	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval March 2024

Course Introduction

The History of Architecture and Urban Studies 3 (HAUS 3) course builds on the HAUS 2 course, demonstrating the extent to which the built environment depends on social, cultural, and political circumstances, as well as on the opportunities and challenges presented by the natural environment, in terms of resources and energy. This will be demonstrated through selected historical themes.

Students will use the skills acquired in the HAUS 1 and HAUS 2 courses to analyse buildings and urban environments from select historical and geographical contexts in relation to socio-economic factors as well as structures of power, ideas and beliefs. Students will learn to make an informed argument about these relations based on sources and scholarly methodologies.

HAUS 3 consists of two components, HAUS 3 Core and HAUS 3 Elective. Students will take HAUS 3 Core and one from a range of HAUS 3 Electives offered.

Throughout the course students are supported to develop and demonstrate the professional competencies and graduate attributes required to meet the standards for exemption from the ARB and RIBA Part 1 Examination in Architecture.

Course Aims

The aims of the course are to:

professional: enhance a student's ability to use the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs

design/create: enhance a student's ability to devise relevant and historically informed outputs addressing the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and aesthetic context of architecture

research: enhance a student's research skills and tools in relation to historic and contemporary buildings including aspects of regenerative design

communication: enhance a student's ability to utilise the visual and textual modes of communication in architecture and urban studies

skills: enhance a student's ability to examine and explain the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political and economic context

knowledge: enhance a student's foundational knowledge of buildings and urban ensembles from a global and non-Eurocentric perspective, within their social, political, and economic context, including questions of power, representation and exclusion, as well as energy use in historical and contemporary architecture

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course HAUS 3 students will be able to **analyse, evaluate and demonstrate:**

professional: the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs

design/create: the ability to devise relevant and historically informed outputs addressing the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and aesthetic context of architecture

research: research skills and tools in relation to historic and contemporary architecture

communication: the ability to utilise the visual and textual modes of communication in architecture and urban studies

skills: the ability to examine and explain the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political and economic context

knowledge: knowledge of buildings and urban ensembles from a global and non-Eurocentric perspective, within their social, political, and economic context, including questions of power, representation, and exclusion, as well as energy use in historical and contemporary architecture

Indicative Content

HAUS 3 Core focuses on how architecture developed in response to energy availability under different fuel regimes, both before and after the transition to fossil fuel, and raising awareness of embodied and operational energy in relation to the climate emergency. HAUS 3 Core also explores and explains how cities as theorised, planned, and constructed, provided answers to each époque's unique circumstances, challenges, and beliefs.

HAUS 3 Elective allows students to focus on a specific subject in the field of architecture and urban studies, such as the architecture of specific places, the history of ideas, the issues surrounding the conservation of our built heritage, and the social, economic, and political factors that influence architectural design in the urban context.

During the course students will:

- Make an informed argument on the relation between buildings and society

- Use scholarly methodology to formulate a hypothesis and substantiate it based on academic sources
- explore architecture and urban studies in select periods and geographical regions

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Pedagogy:

The HAUS 3 course consists of two components: HAUS 3 Core and HAUS 3 Electives. The HAUS 3 Core component reinforces a student's knowledge of buildings and urbanism in a global context while reinforcing the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs through lectures and discussion. The HAUS 3 Elective component enables students to explore a selected topic in depth within a small-group seminar-based context.

Delivery:

The course is delivered using a range of learning and teaching activities, including lectures, small-group work and plenary discussions. Staff-directed study is complemented by independent student-directed study. The HAUS 3 Core component is predominantly delivered through lectures along with small group work and plenary discussions.

The HAUS 3 Elective component is taught in seminar groups of approximately twenty students and includes individual work, small-group work, plenary discussions, as well as student-led presentations.

Timetable:

HAUS 3 Core lectures and Elective seminars are delivered on a weekly basis.

Canvas:

The virtual learning environment tool Canvas is used for the dissemination, discussion, and access to relevant course information, and to signpost students to other relevant teaching and learning platforms used by GSA.

Indicative Contact Hours

32

Notional Learning Hours

200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative feedback is delivered during the course, offering students the opportunity to obtain staff feedback on the student's essay outline.

The Formative feedback provided fosters reflective learning while supporting the Summative graded assessment and feedback process.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment, generally undertaken at the end of the course, is designed and delivered to support student learning through evaluation of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) for each course, aligned with the professional competencies required for architectural practice. Summative assessment in the History of Architecture and Urban Studies 3 course is undertaken through two 2500-word essays, one for HAUS Core and one for HAUS Elective. The coursework assignment submission includes images and text submitted in a digital format. Written feedback is provided on all summative assessments.

All submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the GSA Code of Assessment. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the GSA Code of Assessment.

During the academic session, staff deliver assessment workshops with students, clarifying the assessment process delivered within the Programme.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Assignment HAUS 3.1 Students are required to submit a HAUS 3 Core assignment of 2,500 words. The assignment requires students to examine how buildings and urban designs are a response to the socio-cultural and political context and a response to the environment and energy availability.	50%	Week 9
Assignment HAUS 3.2 Students are required to submit a HAUS 3 Elective assignment of 2,500 words. The submission requires students to present an argument related to the key themes of the selected HAUS Elective.	50%	Week 9

Exchange/Study Abroad	
Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	Yes
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	No
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	

Reading and On-line Resources
A supporting course indicative Reading and online resource list is accessible via Resource Lists . This list will be reviewed and updated annually. Supervisors, tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen research subject.