

**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification**

**Course Title: Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies**

*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.*

<b>Course Code:</b>	<b>HECOS Code:</b>	<b>Academic Session:</b>
PLAW102		2025-26

<b>1. Course Title:</b>
Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies

<b>2. Date of Approval:</b>	<b>3. Lead School:</b>	<b>4. Other Schools:</b>
PACAAG August 2024	School of Fine Art	N/A

<b>5. Credits:</b>	<b>6. SCQF Level:</b>	<b>7. Course Leader:</b>
20	11	Dr Laura Haynes

<b>8. Associated Programmes:</b>
MLitt in Art Writing

<b>9. When Taught:</b>
Semester 1

<b>10. Course Aims:</b>
<p>The course supports you to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extensive understanding of the histories and theories of art writing and criticism;</li> <li>• Knowledge of, and expertise within, the expanded field of art writing, including myriad forms of writing (criticism, essaying, writing for moving image, performance etc.) and the spectrum of platforms for distribution;</li> <li>• The ability to think critically and creatively about theoretical and practical issues and their inter-relationships;</li> <li>• Research skills, including visual literacy, library and archival skills, equipping students with the ability to contribute knowledge and practice to publication, exhibition, conference and other appropriate dissemination platforms in other sectors</li> </ul>

<b>11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:</b>
<p>By the end of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a critical understanding of the theories and practices, both historical and contemporary, which define the contemporary field of art writing, and engage with contemporary debates in the development of the field;</li> <li>• Begin to identify an independent area of expertise and situate this in relation to a range of contexts, platforms and research in the field;</li> </ul>

- Identify, conceptualise and define complex issues in the field of art writing and contemporary art practice;
- Develop the ability to transfer knowledge, learning and skills from one context to another, including synthesis between practice and theory

## 12. Indicative Content:

*Art Writing: Histories, Theories and Methodologies* maps a broad spectrum of approaches, methodologies and theories of art writing. The course encourages students to consider art writing as a discipline and to examine its cultural and literary forms, histories, content and contexts. The curriculum concerns creative, philosophical, critical and theoretical approaches to writing about art, writing with art and writing as art. You will be introduced to a range of modes of contemporary artist writing including the artist novel, prose poetry and the lyric essay, and encouraged to define your own ambitious and experimental research enquiry and practice in relation to the production, distribution and reception of your work. Teaching and learning methods include a series of lectures, seminars and reading groups.

## 13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Essay	3,000-words	100	Week 13, Semester 1

### 13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

You will submit work for assessment via Canvas upload. Work will be assessed against the ILOs for the course. Written feedback will be provided.

## 14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

On-going feedback and guidance will be offered to students in relation to their progress. This is presented through tutorial appointments and seminars throughout the course. Other formative assessment methods include:

- Optional formative writing opportunities (opportunity to contribute responsive writing to discussions in seminars and reading groups);
- Discursive participation in seminars and reading groups;
- Class presentations towards essay development;
- Engagement in tutorials and with professional practitioners and mentors

### 14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

As above.

## 15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

**15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:**

Teaching and learning methods include presentations, seminars, reading and writing groups. A series of 'Intensives' introduce students to topical themes or methodological enquiries. You are required to engage with core aspects of professional art practice: to critically re-evaluate and develop your own work; to understand and develop methodologies for practice-based research; and to establish effective presentation and communication skills. Students have access to a dedicated studio space and are actively encouraged and supported to test and develop their work alongside the Art Writing cohort and SoFA PGT peers.

Students are also encouraged to engage in activities such as:

- Attendance of exhibitions, events, symposia, public lectures and conferences;
- Independent research: libraries, archives etc.;
- Peer group discussions: self-initiated research/reading groups or visits

**16. Pre-requisites:**

Entry Requirements for MLitt Art Writing (see Programme Specification).

<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	

**21. Additional Relevant Information:**

This course will be delivered through a series of lectures, seminars and group discussions led primarily by the Course Leader and supported by a range of expertise from across The Glasgow School of Art and external affiliates. You will be required to prepare for all lectures and seminars.

**22. Indicative Bibliography:**

The course indicative reading and online resource list is accessible via [Resource Lists](#).

This list will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect course content and subject developments.