

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: *Critical Review of Studio Practice*



Group Crit – image courtesy of Henry Rogers

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
PMFA101	100059	2025-2026

Course Title	Critical Review of Studio Practice
Course Contact	Dr Roddy Hunter

Credits	40
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 1, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	N/A
Lead School	School of Fine Art
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2025

Course Introduction

This course will help you develop a more self-directed artistic practice by reviewing your practice to date to identify strengths and scope areas for improvement. Through critical reappraisal, you will be encouraged to review your practice and explore new approaches. You will reflect on different ways to approach studio practice, identifying new directions for development that will support your future practice and research. Your objective is to reconsider what you have already achieved, take risks through practical experimentation and work towards setting of a new or enhanced vision for your practice.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Encourage the critical evaluation of creative practice in relationship to historical and theoretical discourse and contexts.
- Enable the enhancement of practical, technical and problem-solving skills and/or acquisition of new practical skills and their application towards establishing an 'independent voice' as an artist.
- Provide learning opportunities that will enable the development of communication skills in a range of learning scenarios.
- Provide the opportunity to establish knowledge and understanding of health and safety issues applicable to creative practice in the studio setting.
- Facilitate the exercising of good judgement regarding ethical and environmental good practice where appropriate.
- Provide an opportunity to enhance communication skills and build confidence whilst working constructively with others.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon full participation in and successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Critically reappraise your existing artistic practice to analyse the historical, cultural and contextual influences that shape your work
- Formulate an approach to studio practice that begins to generate material and ideas appropriate to your practice in new ways
- Experiment with speculative approaches to technical and material processes to create new work.
- Work constructively with others, enhancing your communication and teamwork skills.

Indicative Content

You will begin to review your practice through critical reappraisal sessions in which you present work to tutors and fellow students in a group setting, paying critical attention to those aspects of the work that need further development. Group discussion and feedback will further enhance the process of critical reappraisal. It enables you to establish an initial proposition for practice.

Emphasis is placed on developing creative work through practical experimentation and investigating alternative media or related disciplines where relevant. The extent of reappraisal and subsequent re-examination of creative practice will vary from student to student, as will the pace of development. Thus, the critical reappraisal offers a developmental framework, rather than a prescriptive programme, relevant and distinct to your interests and learning needs, enabling you to develop a personalised bespoke relationship to your developing practice.

You will also be introduced to arts venues and spaces in the city to support professional practice and community awareness. There can also be opportunities to work with students from other postgraduate programmes in the school through shared critiques and pop-up shows.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

The course enables you to review and establish approaches to studio practice, identify learning needs and share work with peers and tutors.

A range of learning and teaching methods are used to support you to engage in an explorative and individual approach to learning. These include:

- Briefings
- Critical Review Sessions
- inductions and demonstrations
- technical workshops
- studio activities
- individual and group tutorials
- talks, lectures, seminars, and study visits
- group critiques and reviews, peer review, and presentations
- presentations and writing
- Progress review and self-evaluation
- Opportunities to collaborate with peers across the PGT programmes
- Student-led pop-up exhibitions and events

Digital skills, materials and technical resources are introduced through inductions, demonstrations, and workshops.

Independent learning skills will be developed and supported through guided activities and digital online learning resources available on Canvas.

Where appropriate and beneficial, online learning and delivery augment and enhance curriculum.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40	400

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative assessment offers you the opportunity to obtain ongoing tutor and peer feedback through developing your work for the summative submission over the length of each course. You will actively participate in assessment through regular self-reflection and critical evaluation to encourage increasing self-direction.

You are supported in your learning through a range of formative activities with staff and peers, such as group critiques, progress reviews and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as they progress through each course within this programme.

Formative assessment for this course takes the form of a written Progress Review Report and a subsequent Progress Review meeting documenting and reflecting upon progress of creative practice, its theoretical underpinning and the contextualisation of artwork in a contemporary context.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

In this course, you will identify and present your most significant artworks work in a studio setting and submit a digital portfolio of relevant documentation and supporting material, including a critical self-evaluation. Although comprising different elements, this body of work will be assessed holistically as a single submission and awarded a single grade. This enables you to present and contextualise the relationship between process and outcome in a way that best reflects your working methods and practice.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment., and you will receive written feedback accounting for the grade awarded and advice on how to improve. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A body of work presented in the studio. A digital portfolio of work and supporting material A completed critical self-evaluation form. <p>Although comprising different elements, this body of work will be assessed holistically against the course Intended</p>	100%	Week 13 (Stage 1 Semester 1)

Learning Outcomes as a single submission and awarded a single grade		
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Exchange/Study Abroad	
Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	N/A
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
<p>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.</p>