Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Studio 1: Introducing Practice
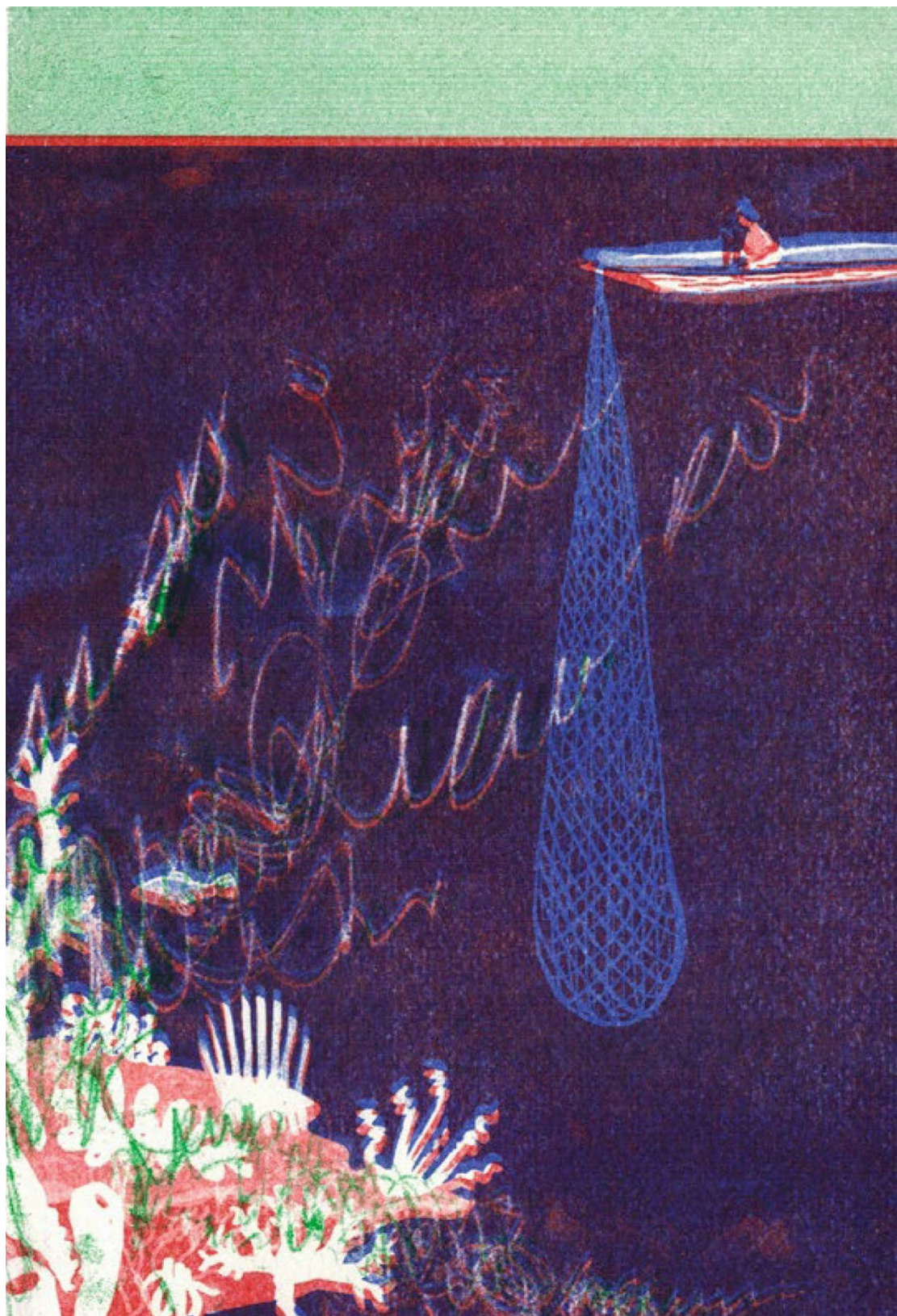

Image*:* Laura Mayer

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
	100061 / 1000062 / 100063	**2025-26**

Course Title	Studio 1: Introducing Practice
Course Contact	

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

Associated Programmes	Master of Design in Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography Awards Master of Design in Graphic Design, Master of Design in Illustration, Master of Design in Photography (Individual pathways with separate awards)
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	n/a
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2025

Course Introduction

This course prepares students to develop and challenge their existing practices within the discipline specific pathways of Graphic Design, Illustration and Photography in an interdisciplinary studio-based learning environment fostering curiosity, experimentation and risk-taking.

Through a series of set, discipline specific, projects, the course engages students in research, theory and making, as well as an introduction to critical reflective methods. Students critically reflect and synthesise practice-led research and theory to situate their practice within their chosen discipline-specific pathway.

Students are introduced to a range of digital and analogue processes through introductions and inductions to, discipline specific, facilities and workshops. The studio promotes a supportive community to encourage specialist and interdisciplinary academic discourse and to challenge existing practices of Communication Design from within the discipline-specific pathways.

Students are required to reflect on their practice through critical reflective tasks informing experimentation and creative responses to set project briefs.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. engage students in practice-led research through specialist methods and processes of making.

2. encourage students to critically review and extend their knowledge and understanding of discipline-specific research, and theory.

3. equip students with the critical reflective skills to develop new insight into personal learning and specialist practice.

4. engage students in developing their criticality through the exchange of perspectives and ideas considering complex ethical, societal, political and environmental contexts.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. apply a range of practice-led research methods and processes in response to discipline-specific and collaborative projects.

2. demonstrate a range of specialist research methods and theory informing discipline-specific and collaborative projects.

3. demonstrate critical reflection, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new knowledge to generate insight into personal learning and discipline-specific practice.

4. evidence a critical evaluation of how discipline-specific practitioners engage with complex ethical, societal, political and environmental contexts.

Indicative Content

The course will introduce students to:

- workshops and connected activities
- a range of discipline specific project briefs
- specialist process inductions e.g. Letterpress, Screen Print, Photographic studio
- approaches to contemporary, historical, and cultural research
- primary, secondary research and investigation
- methods and models of critical reflection
- self-directed, authorial, learning.
- exploration of material processes through iterative investigation

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

This course is designed as a project-based course. Project briefs encourage an independent, tutor-supported approach that emphasises individual and in-depth self-directed study.

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

- Briefings

- Introductions, Inductions and demonstrations

Discipline specific technical and process workshops
- Studio activities
- Peer-led activities
- Lectures, seminars, presentations and study visits
- Individual and group tutorials
- Staff/Student/Peer reviews of student work
- Critical reflective methods, textual, dialogic and visual.
- Journal and documentation of learning activities
- Continual reflective self-evaluation of progress and learning

Skills, including analogue, digital, material 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.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
40	400

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Students are supported in their learning through a range of activities with staff and peers, such as workshops, reviews and tutorials offering ongoing formative feedback as they progress through the course.

Formative assessment offers students the opportunity to present the progress of their project work to staff and receive feedback to inform the development and refinement of their submission for summative assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is designed to support students to review, collate, and communicate work produced in response to project briefs and learning and teaching activities associated with the course. Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment, which outlines reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Students are required to submit a portfolio of work produced in response to set project briefs and other learning activities. A critically reflective document of 1000 words contextualising the student's learning should accompany the submission. Portfolio of work	 75%	Semester 1 Week 13

Critical Reflective document	25%	

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?	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
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. Tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen area of research and focus.