

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: *Theorising Studio Practice*



Image courtesy of Monya Riachi

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
PMFA302	100059	2025-2026

Course Title	Theorising Studio Practice
Course Contact	TBC

Credits	20
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 3, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	N/A
Lead School	School of Fine Art
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2025

Course Introduction

This course enables you to explicitly address the ideas and research interests which underpin your creative practice in relationship to historical and theoretical discourse and contemporary contextual debates. Integral to the development of creative practice at this point is initiating a research project that will enable you to theoretically underpin your creative practice within a contemporary context, hence the title *Theorising Studio Practice*. The course introduces ways in which you can apply critical and theoretical research methods in and through practice to drive the development and contextualisation of your work, enabling them to produce a significant body of written research.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

- Encourage engagement with historical and theoretical discourse and context as part of a critically informed dialogue between research and creative practice.
- Enable you to acquire and apply appropriate critical, analytical, reflective and evaluative skills.
- Facilitate the planning, development and execution of a critically informed extended essay.
- Support your communication skills and build confidence in the presentation and sharing of ideas with peers.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Evidence engagement with historical and theoretical discourse and context as part of a critically informed dialogue between research and creative practice.
- Apply and synthesise critical, analytical, reflective and evaluative skills.
- Plan, develop and execute a critically informed extended essay .
- Exercise autonomy, independence and initiative in the conception and presentation of ideas.

- Identify and engage with various perspectives relevant to your chosen critical debate and practice.
- Communicate effectively through enhanced presentation skills and the sharing of ideas with peers.

Indicative Content

Teaching will enable you to further reflect upon and deepen your knowledge and understanding of a specific topic or field of investigation and conduct a sustained period of research on, and relevant to, your creative practice. It provides an opportunity to anticipate or reflect upon what has or will be achieved in research through continued critique in support of creative practice. This will take the form of an extended essay (5,000 words) on a chosen topic emerging from your critically informed creative practice. This task enables the further exploration and in-depth examination of those research interests informing creative practice and thereby deepening the understanding of the practical and theoretical aspects of study as 'related- objects-of-thinking'. The production and development of this submission is supported by tutorials with the assigned supervisor.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

A range of learning and teaching methods are used to support you to engage in an explorative and individual approach to the development of your learning. One to one tutorial support with the designated supervisor is central and you will also share their research with each other in the student-led presentations.

These include:

- briefing
- individual tutorials
- Student-led presentations

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

Indicative Contact Hours

20

Notional Learning Hours

200

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 you progress through each course within this programme.

Formative assessment for this course takes place at the mid-point of this year-long course in the form of student-led presentations for which you will also prepare and share a handout outlining the trajectory of your thought and research undertaken up until this point. You will also take

questions from peers, and tutors follow your presentation to identify questions and areas of development and help clarify your thinking and communication in a responsive and timely way. Following the presentation, you will receive recorded feedback to aid your reflection on progress and plan your approach toward completing your research in the second half of the course.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative Assessment enables you to reflect upon feedback from formative assessment in finalising your approach to submitting work at the end of the course. Guidance for summative assessment is designed to support you to review, collate, present and communicate your research in response to learning and teaching activities associated with the course.

In this course, you will submit a 5,000 word extended essay. The submission will be uploaded to Canvas alongside a Critical Self-Evaluation that reflects upon and evaluates the work submitted, it requires you to identify both strengths and weaknesses from your own perspective. These elements will be assessed holistically as a single submission accounting for 100% of the assessment.

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"> Extended essay (5,000 words) or equivalent negotiated written research project plus a critical self-evaluation 	100%	Week 13 (Stage 3 Semester 1)

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

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.