

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Black and White Photography

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:
		2025-26

1. Course Title:
Black and White Photography

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2020	Open Studio	School of Fine Art

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
10	7	Gordon Webb, Head of Continuing Education

8. Associated Programmes:
N/A

9. When Taught:
Open Studio programmes throughout the year.

10. Course Aims:
<p>The aim of this course is to equip students with skills in taking photographs and to think more creatively and philosophically about making photographs, and to develop individual photographic concerns.</p> <p>Equip students with the skills in working with a 35mm SRL camera</p> <p>Develop darkroom skills and processes enabling students to develop finished prints to a good standard</p>

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:
<p>By the end of this course students will be able to:</p> <p>Use the camera intelligently, process photographic film, increased competency in darkroom skill set and deliver finished prints to a good standard. Students will have an understanding of composition and subject matter, and develop an individual and creative outlook on the medium.</p>

12. Indicative Content:
This course will provide students with a solid knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of Black and White Photography. Students will learn technical skills in the use of the camera and

darkroom equipment appropriately and be confident using this equipment. Students will firstly be introduced to the use of the 35mm SRL camera and the darkroom and processing equipment. Students will be instructed on how to load the film and the first project will be discussed. On completion of the first film students will start to process their films by loading spirals – which will be practiced before using test film. Contact sheets from the film will be produced and students will be introduced to first test strips. On choosing which photographs to be printed from the contact sheet students will then be instructed in the use of the enlarger and printing from negatives to produce first finished prints. Photographs are printed using the automated printing process that develops fixes and dries the prints.

Students will be introduced to the use of multi-grade filters to alter paper contrast and to simplified zone system to aid exposure composition to photographic scenes which are too dark or too light – i.e. which average tonal value other than 18% grey. This will also help with the second project.

In developing the photographs students will also cover burning/dodging, retouching, creative enlarging and cropping, composition and the use of contrast correction filters. The second project themes will be broad to encourage the students to think philosophically about making photographs.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

The course will be internally assessed by studio work. Finalised collection of work will be assessed by the tutor and another member of staff, in the presence of the student; an assessment checklist will be completed. Submitted work will be assessed in accordance with the GSA scheme of assessment.

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Summative assessment occurs at the end of the course. Students should present their final prints over the two projects with support work of test sheets and proof prints. Students will be assessed on how they responded to the projects/brief. Finalise collection of work will be assessed by the tutor and another member of staff, in the presence of the student and assessment checklist will be completed. Submitted work will be assessed in accordance with the GSA scheme of assessment.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement. Formative assessment occurs during regular contact with the tutor, including informal tutorials and discussion within the studio/darkroom. Throughout the course students are supported in assessing their developing work and encouraged to make adjustments where necessary. Although it takes place in every class with individual critiques, over time they are able to evaluate their work in progress and learn to modify its development.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

N/A

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
38	100

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

Taking Photographs for the two projects, this also may also involve travel.

16. Pre-requisites:

N/A

17. Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?

Yes

18. Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?

No

19. Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?

No

20. Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?

No

20.1 If yes, then please enter the names of the other teaching institutions:

N/A

21. Additional Relevant Information:

Private Study may include research time, library time, reading journals, art magazines or newspapers, talking about relevant topics to fellow students or artist in this field. Going to galleries, exhibitions and museums; and preparing coursework for assessment.

22. Indicative Bibliography:

Schaefer, J.P., 1999. *The Ansel Adams Guide - Basic Techniques of Photography Book 1*, Little, Brown and Company.

Clarke, G., 2002. *The photograph*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Milton, M., 2005. *100 ways to take better black and white photographs*, Cincinnati, OH: David & Charles.

Carroll, H., 2014. *Read this if you want to take great photographs*, London: Laurence King Pub.