

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: History of Architecture and Urban Studies 1



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 Academic Year.

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
	100782	2026-27

Course Title	History of Architecture and Urban Studies 1
Course Contact	Florian Urban

Credits	20
SCQF Level	Level 7
When Taught	Semester 1

Associated Programmes	Bachelor of Architecture with Honours BSc in Environmental Architecture with Honours BSc in Interior Architecture with Honours
Lead School	Mackintosh School of Architecture
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval September 2025

Course Introduction

The History of Architecture and Urban Studies 1 (HAUS 1) course introduces students to the range of factors which shape buildings, towns and cities and inform the architectural design process, analysing selected examples from significant periods of architectural history.

The course explores the development of the built environment with reference to the analysis and evaluation of Glasgow's urban evolution, including a study tour of select neighbourhoods. The course also explores the broader historical and cultural relationship between society and architecture through the lens of the energy expended in the making and the inhabitation of buildings.

Course Aims

The aims of the course are to:

professional: introduce students to the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs

design/create: introduce students to devising relevant and historically informed outputs addressing the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and aesthetic context of architecture

research: introduce students to research skills and tools in relation to historic and contemporary architecture

communication: introduce students to the visual and textual conventions of architecture and urban studies

skills: introduce students to the formal examination and explanation of the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political, economic and environmental context

knowledge: introduce students to the foundational knowledge of buildings and urban ensembles from a global and non-Eurocentric perspective, within their social, political and economic context, including questions of power, representation and exclusion, as well as energy-use in historical and contemporary architecture

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course HAUS 1 students will be able to **examine and demonstrate:**

professional: the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs

design/create: relevant and historically informed outputs addressing the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and aesthetic context of architecture

research: foundational research skills and tools in relation to historic and contemporary architecture

communication: the visual and textual modes of communication in architecture and urban studies

skills: the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political, economic and environmental context

knowledge: foundational knowledge of buildings and urban ensembles from a global and non-Eurocentric perspective, within their social, political and economic context, including questions of power, representation and exclusion, as well as energy-use in historical and contemporary architecture.

Indicative Content

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the relation between architecture and socio-economic factors with the example of select periods in architectural and urban history, analysing examples from different parts of the world. Students will be introduced to key concepts in architectural history and urban studies including:

- Architecture and Energy
- Dwelling and the House
- Studying and Measuring the City
- Place Making and Urban Design
- Architecture and Power
- Boundaries, Public Spaces, Streets
- The Classical Tradition in Architecture
- The Role of the Architect in the City
- Memory and the Monument

The course will also include an introduction to Glasgow (including a bus tour with student-led presentations on select buildings and neighbourhoods).

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Pedagogy:

The HAUS 1 course introduces students to the foundational knowledge of buildings and urbanism in a global context while exploring the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs through lectures and discussion.

Delivery:

The course is delivered using a range of learning and teaching activities, including lectures, small group working, plenary discussions and field trips. Staff-directed study is complemented by independent student-directed study.

Timetable:

Lectures delivered on a weekly basis.

Canvas:

The virtual learning environment tool Canvas is used for the dissemination, discussion, and access to relevant course information, and to signpost students to other relevant teaching and learning platforms used by GSA.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

Formative feedback is delivered during the course, offering students the opportunity to obtain staff feedback to the student's essay outline.

The Formative feedback provided fosters reflective learning while supporting the Summative graded assessment and feedback process, which generally happens at the end of the course.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

Summative assessment is generally undertaken at the end of the course. Students' work is assessed against the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) for each course which are aligned with the professional competencies required for architectural practice. Summative assessment in the History of Architecture and Urban Studies 1 course is undertaken through one 2,000-word essay. Coursework assignment submissions involve visual and text-based submissions utilising both digital and physical tools and formats. Written feedback is provided on all summative assessments.

All submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the GSA Code of Assessment. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the GSA Code of Assessment.

During the academic session, staff deliver assessment workshops with students, clarifying the assessment process delivered within the Programme.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Assignment HAUS 1.1 Students are required to submit an assignment of 2,000 words with supporting images. The assignment requires students to analyse an existing building and construct an	100%	Week 8

argument explaining the use and the social and economic context of the building.		
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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?	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
Supporting the course, an indicative reading and on-line resource list is accessible via Resource Lists . This list will be reviewed and updated annually. Supervisors, tutors and peers will provide further recommendations appropriate to student's chosen research subject.