

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: History of Architecture and Urban Studies
(HAUS) 3 Core



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
TBC	100782	2026-27

Course Title	History of Architecture and Urban Studies 3 Core
Course Contact	Florian Urban

Credits	10
SCQF Level	Level 9
When Taught	Semester 2

Associated Programmes	BSc 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 3Core course (HAUS 3Core) builds on the HAUS 2Core course, demonstrating the extent to which the built environment depends on social, cultural, and political circumstances, as well as on the opportunities and challenges presented by the natural environment, in terms of resources and energy. This will be demonstrated through selected historical themes. Students will use the skills acquired in the HAUS 1 course to analyse buildings and architectural environments from select historical and geographical contexts in relation to socio-economic factors as well as structures of power, ideas and beliefs. Students will learn to make an informed argument about these relations based on sources and scholarly methodologies.

Course Aims
The aims of the course are to: professional: enhance a student's ability to use the principles and practices of the ethical use of history to inform architectural debate, discourse and outputs design/create: enhance a student's ability to devise relevant and historically informed outputs addressing the environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and aesthetic context of architecture research: enhance a student's research skills and tools in relation to historic and contemporary buildings including aspects of regenerative design communication: enhance a student's ability to utilise the visual and textual modes of communication in architecture and urban studies skills: enhance a student's ability to examine and explain the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political and economic context

knowledge: enhance a student's 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 3Core students will be able to **analyse, evaluate and demonstrate:**

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

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

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

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

skills: the ability to examine and explain the significance and meaning of buildings and urban ensembles within their social, political and economic context

knowledge: 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

The HAUS 3Core course focuses on how architecture developed in response to energy availability under different fuel regimes, both before and after the transition to fossil fuel, and raising awareness of embodied and operational energy in relation to the climate emergency. HAUS 3/Core course also explores and explains how cities as theorised, planned, and constructed, provided answers to each époque's unique circumstances, challenges, and beliefs.

During the course students will:

- Make an informed argument on the relation between buildings and society
- Use scholarly methodology to formulate a hypothesis and substantiate it based on academic sources
- explore architecture and urban studies in select periods and geographical regions

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Pedagogy:

The HAUS 3/Core course reinforces a student's knowledge of buildings and urbanism in a global context while reinforcing 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 work and plenary discussions. Staff-directed study is complemented by independent student-directed study. The HAUS 3/Core component is predominantly delivered through lectures along with plenary discussions.

Timetable:

HAUS 3/Core lectures are 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
16	100

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

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

The Formative feedback provided fosters reflective learning while supporting the Summative graded assessment and feedback process.

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 3 Core course is undertaken through one 2,500-word essay. The coursework assignment submission includes images and text submitted in a digital format. 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: Students are required to submit an assignment of 2,500 words. The assignment requires students to examine how buildings and urban designs are a response to the socio-cultural and political context and a response to the environment and energy availability.	100%	Week 9

Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
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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

A supporting course indicative Reading and online 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.