

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Studio 3: Consolidating Practice

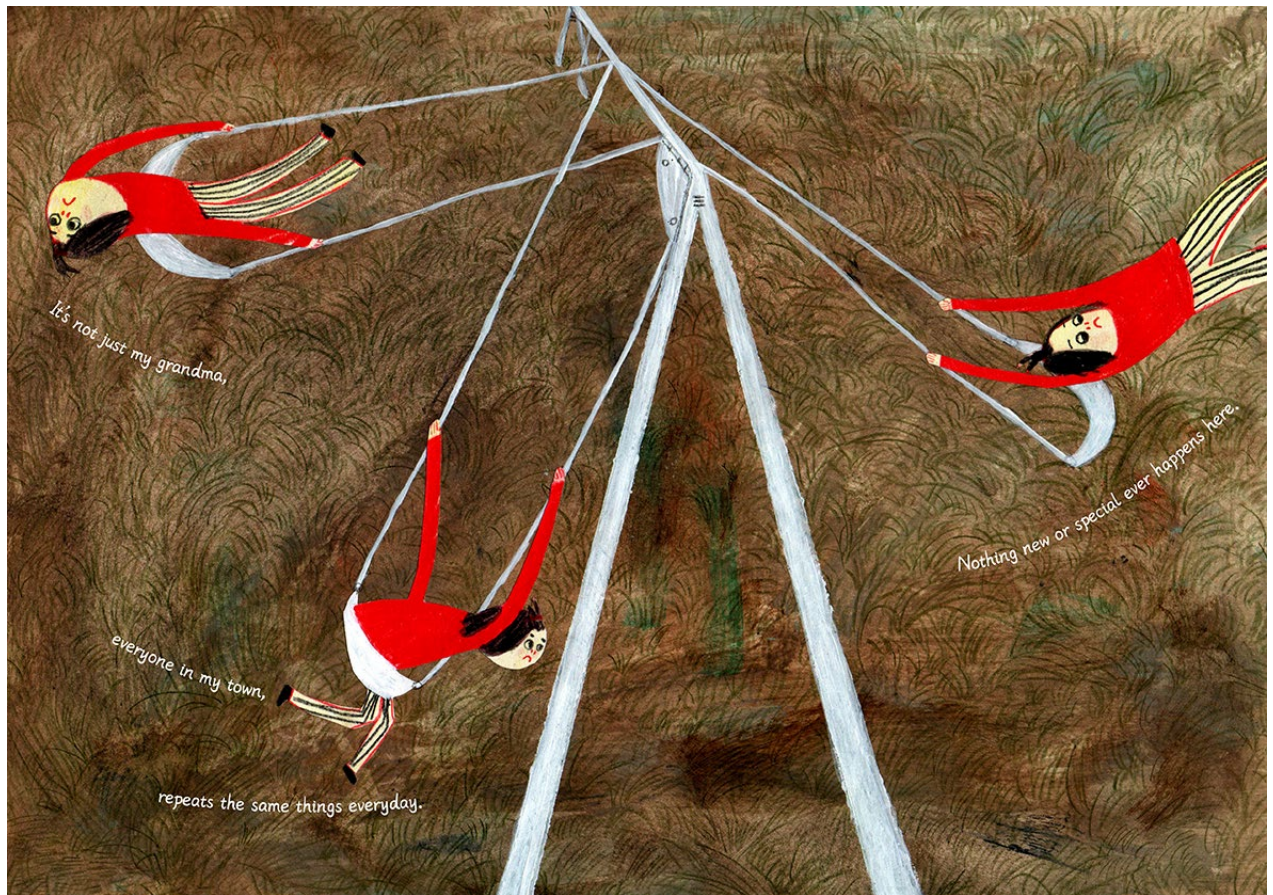


Image: Simone Zhang

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
	100632	2026-27

Course Title	Studio 3: Consolidating Practice
Course Contact	

Credits	80
SCQF Level	11
When Taught	Stage 3, Semester 1 & 2 (Year 2)

Associated Programmes	Master of Design in Communication Design
Lead School	School of Design
Other Schools	n/a
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2026

Course Introduction

This course spans two semesters in Year 2 of study. The extended period of study over two years with a break between years allows for considered research and reflection informing the final Stage of study, with a focus on developing work to facilitate a transition to future practice or further study. This course emphasises self-directed learning and encourages diverse and innovative practices.

Students produce work over the extended Stage 3, of two semesters, that reflects on the learning, skills and knowledge developed in the previous year of study to consolidate their practice-led research through a self-directed project or projects, exploring an identified theme or area of interest in discussion with staff.

Students exercise their agency in developing a significant body of work, informed by in-depth research, theory, material making and rigorous critical reflection to resolve their self-directed project or projects, evidencing the established skills to facilitate transition to future professional practice, life-long learning and/or further academic study.

Students are supported by peers in an interdisciplinary studio-based learning environment in a diverse postgraduate community as they prepare their final portfolio of work for submission. Students can exhibit their work as a final realised project during the annual postgraduate exhibition.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

1. consolidate students' new knowledge and understanding of practice-led research defining their communication design practice.
2. consolidate students' application of specialised research and relevant theory informing communication design practice.
3. engage students in situating their communication design practice informed by critical reflection.

4. equip students to participate and initiate academic discourse regarding the complex ethical, societal, political and environmental challenges relating to creative practice.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. evidence the application of practice-led research in the execution of a significant self-directed project or projects.
2. synthesise specialised research and relevant theory in planning, developing and executing a significant self-directed project or projects.
3. critically reflect, analyse and evaluate the planning and execution of a significant self-directed project or projects.
4. practice ways to communicate and contribute to academic discourse regarding the complex ethical, societal, political and environmental contexts as a creative practitioner.

Indicative Content

The course will consolidate student knowledge and understanding of:

1. approaches to contemporary, historical, and cultural research informing practice.
2. methods of critical reflection applied to practice.
3. self-directed, authorial, learning.
4. consolidation of a self-initiated project/s or significant portfolio of work.

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
- Technical and process workshops on request
- 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

Skills, including 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
80	800

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 or projects to staff and receive feedback to inform the development and refinement of their submission for summative assessment.

As a course taught over two semesters, the course includes an additional formative assessment point in which a student submits formative work. This is marked, with feedback and an indicative grade recorded, and made available to the student.

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 significant portfolio of work produced in response to a self-directed project or projects.	100%	Semester 2 Week 13 (Year 2)

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	
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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.
