

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Course Title: Mapping the City

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 2026-27 Academic Year.

Course Code:	HECOS Code:	Academic Session:
PELC215		2026-27

1. Course Title:
Mapping the City

2. Date of Approval:	3. Lead School:	4. Other Schools:
PACAAG April 2022	Mackintosh School of Architecture	This course is available to students on PGT programmes which include a Stage 2 elective.

5. Credits:	6. SCQF Level:	7. Course Leader:
20	11	Sally Stewart

8. Associated Programmes:
This course is available to students on PGT programmes which include a Stage 2 elective.

9. When Taught:
Stage 2, taught in person only.

10. Course Aims:
The overarching aims of the stage 2 electives are as follows: • Encourage interdisciplinary, critical reflexivity from within an open set of choices; • Foster deep investigative approaches to new or unfamiliar areas of practice and theory; • Cultivate self-directed leadership and initiative-taking in both applied and abstract modes of practice/ study not necessarily associated with a student's particular creative specialism; • Enable flexible, ethical exploration and connection of diverse knowledge and understanding within a specialist programme of study. Central to this course is the use of drawing techniques and practices to explore, document and understand our surroundings as a context for practice. The course also considers the prominence of the city within contemporary creative practice.

11. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:
By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Use a range of mapping and drawing techniques as analytical, descriptive and problem-solving tools;
- Understand the use of such techniques within a variety of contemporary and historic creative practices;
- Understand the use of such techniques in relation to their own discipline;
- Organise and conduct a project using these techniques effectively.

12. Indicative Content:

The course introduces a variety of techniques available to artists, designers and architects for conceptualizing, analyzing and delineating their surroundings, and the use of the city as a location for exploration and discussion.

13. Description of Summative Assessment Methods:

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments)
Portfolio and Exhibition	Submission of portfolio (to include all formal tasks set) and accompanying critical reflection (3500 Words in total)	100%	Week 11, Stage 2

13.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

Tasks undertaken during the elective are submitted in the form of a curated exhibition with accompanying supportive portfolio and critical self-reflection. The word count for this submission is 3500 words.

The portfolio and exhibition will be assessed against all of the learning outcomes for the course.

14. Description of Formative Assessment Methods:

Engagement with formative assessment is a mandatory requirement.

Course work is discussed on a regular basis during each studio session. Work is discussed in an open forum, using a variety of techniques to ensure participation by the elective cohort.

Formative feedback to support the critical development of work and preparation towards the final submission is given in Week 5.

14.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Following individual pin up, brief written feedback is given. Students are also required to undertake a critical self-assessment prior to the formative pin up.

15. Learning and Teaching Methods:

Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

15.1 Description of Teaching and Learning Methods:

Course is offered over 10 weeks, 2 hours a week. Delivered on Wednesdays or Fridays

16. Pre-requisites:

Successful completion of PGT Stage 1.

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:

The elective uses a range activities such as the derive and the city walk, and activities including drawing, map making, through individual, group and collaborative working. The elective is undertaken in both a studio setting and externally in the city itself with each of these components contributing to the final exhibition and portfolio submission.
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22. Indicative Bibliography:

<i>Lost: a field guide to getting lost</i>, Rebecca Solnit, 2006 Cannongate, Edinburgh

<i>Maps of Meaning</i>, Peter Jackson, Routledge, 1989

<i>Mapping the City: Making sense in the city</i>, Simon Foxell, Black dog Publishing, London 2007

<i>You are Here: personal geographies and other maps of the imagination</i>, Katherine Harmon, 2003
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<i>Mappings</i>, Denis Cosgroved, Reaktion Books, London 1999
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<i>Psychogeography</i>, Merlin Coverly, Pocket essentials, Oldgate Book Group, 2010
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