

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Figurative Sculpture

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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
	100592	2026/27

Course Title	Figurative Sculpture
Course Contact	Gordon Webb, Head of Continuing Education

Credits	10
SCQF Level	7
When Taught	Open Studio programmes throughout the year.

Associated Programmes	None
Lead School	Fine Art
Other Schools	None
Date of Approval	PACAAG August 2026

Course Introduction

This is a 10-credit, level 7 course that introduces the basic concepts and techniques of Figurative Sculpture.

Students will learn how to model the figure in clay, working directly from the life model in both shorter and longer poses and will gain experience of translating the human form into three dimensional sculptures.

Course Aims

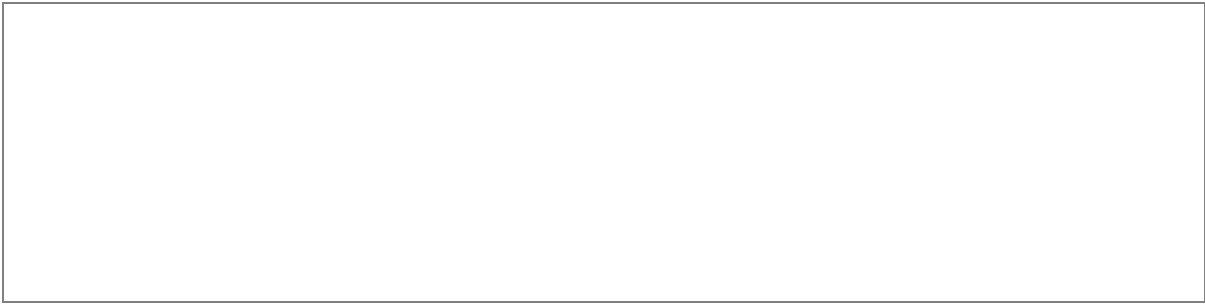
The aim of this course is to:

- enable students to work three dimensionally from the human form.
- gain experience in observation of the human figure
- develop skills in proportions, weight, mass, balance and movement
- developing abilities to express and handle form in clay.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Observational Skills - Develop observational skills and an understanding of the complexity of the human form working three dimensionally
- Material Knowledge - An understanding of how to physically make a figure three-dimensionally from modelling with clay, developing the ability to understand weight and mass.
- Create a body of work representing the human form in several positions including a standing, seated and reclining pose

**Indicative Content**

This course will introduce students to working with the human form three dimensionally using the medium of clay. The students will be taken through the Life Room etiquette and the use of tools that they will work with and will start with a one-off pose to introduce clay as a material and a life room study. Students will then go on to work with the model in longer poses focussing on weight and proportions for the reclining figure and on the torso for the seated figure.

Student will also be set out-of-studio work and will be supplied with clay to produce work relating to their chosen project. This will be discussed by the tutor on a one-to-one basis.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

The course is delivered to a group as a whole and on an individual basis with student with tutor contact time throughout in the development of their work. Group crits allow students the opportunity to assess their own work in relation to their peers.

Indicative Contact Hours

33

Notional Learning Hours

100

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback 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. 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.

Feedback is provided via on-to-one tutorials enabling students to note feedback and critique remarks.

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

The course will be internally assessed by studio work. Finalised collection of work and completed self-evaluation form will be assessed by the tutor and another member of staff and an assessment checklist will be completed. Submitted work will be assessed and moderated in accordance with the GSA Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Studio Practice: Applied knowledge and understanding	70%	12
Self-directed study project	20%	12
Completed Self-Evaluation Form	10%	12

Exchange/Study Abroad	
Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	Yes
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
Rubino, P. & Rubino, P., 2010. Sculpting the figure in clay: an artistic and technical journey to understanding the creative and dynamic forces in figurative sculpture, New York: Watson-Guption Publications Russell, T., 2014. Modelling and sculpting the figure, London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts, An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. Hildre, B., 2008. Modelling heads and faces in clay, London: A. & C. Black.