

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Introduction to Life Drawing

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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
	100587	2026/27

Course Title	Introduction to Life Drawing
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 Life Drawing.

Students will be equipped with the basic knowledge, understanding and confidence required to draw the human form. Core technical and perceptual skills will be developed and applied to enable the student to render a nude figure.

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to:

- Provide the student with the knowledge, understanding and confidence required, to draw the human form.
- Develop skills and the creative practices necessary to be applied in rendering a nude figure with regard to proportions, weight, shape, balance and movement.
- Provide a platform from which the student's personal awareness and interpretation of the visual environment can be developed.
- Develop ideas and techniques relating to the subject through independent sketchbook work, which will extend the students practice outwith the studio and contact hours.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Utilise a range of materials and tools, techniques and styles, effectively.
- Select and prepare a suitable support for their work.
- Draw the figure achieving structural and proportional accuracy.
- Render the human form in a variety of poses/positions and settings.
- Use sketchbooks to explore, in further detail, drawing means and methods

Indicative Content

The competent application of a range of media and the satisfactory demonstration of a variety of drawing techniques and styles. Students develop skills in rendering the nude figure through effective use of line, tone, and value, while considering surface texture and pattern within their work. Emphasis is placed on accurate anatomical representation and proportion, alongside careful consideration of shape, form, weight, and balance.

Students explore the expression of rhythm and movement, producing work in which subjects are rendered with proportional accuracy in relation to their surroundings. Appropriate presentation techniques are developed throughout the course.

Independent study is supported through sustained sketchbook practice, demonstrating the development of a personal methodology for investigating and exploring ideas, techniques, and approaches fundamental to drawing the human form and other subject matter.

Students participate in group crits of their own work and that of their peers'.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Small group of students taught one-to-one in the studio. 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. Submission of all studio work to be assessed on the demonstration of the learning outcomes.	70%	12
Sketchbook and preparatory work completed outside the studio	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
Bammes, G., 2015. Complete guide to life drawing, Tunbridge Wells (Kent): Search Press. Bridgman, G.B., 2017. Bridgmans complete guide to drawing from life, New York: Sterling. Hale, R.B. & Coyle, T., 1991. Master class in figure drawing, New York: Watson-Guption Publications. Nicolaides, K., 2008. The natural way to draw, London: Souvenir.