

Glasgow School of Art Course Specification

Course Title: Introduction to Oil Painting

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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
	100589	2026/27

Course Title	Introduction to Oil Painting
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 Oil Painting.

This course will introduce students to the key terminologies, concepts and applications of oil painting and equip students with good practical skills in handling appropriate equipment and materials using primary and secondary sources.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are to:

- Introduce students to the key terminologies, concepts and applications of Oil Painting
- Develop the students' knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of Oil Painting
- Equip students with good practical skills in handling appropriate equipment and materials
- Develop drawing skills using primary and secondary sources.
- Encourage students to become actively engaged in the historical context of Oil Painting.
- Develop sketchbook practice.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate and apply techniques to create successful composition and design
- Select and handle different Oil Painting brushes and equipment effectively and safely
- Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate colour and tonal mixing
- Develop skills and application in response to project briefs.
- Begin to show an awareness and understanding of a broad range of artists working in the medium of Oil, both historical and contemporary.
- Demonstrate personal sketchbook and exploratory practice.



Indicative Content

This course will provide students with solid knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of Oil painting and its application. Students will learn practical skills in handling materials and equipment appropriately. Each student will receive one-to-one tuition from the tutor on the choice of subject matter, the rendering of their drawing, the application of paint, and their approach to layering paint.

Students will be encouraged to improve upon their technique whilst working to develop their practice and enhance their skill set. Students will be asked to pay particular attention to their practices away from the canvas, including making preparatory sketches, employing colour studies, how they manage their palette and how they approach their subject matter.

Students will be required to look at the work of historical and contemporary painters during the course in order to gain heightened critical awareness. They will be encouraged to utilise the techniques of other artists in their own work and will be required to develop a contextual awareness of artists, styles and movements. In addition, students will be encouraged to visit art galleries and permanent exhibitions.

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods

Small group of students taught one-to-one within the studio. Group crits allow students the opportunity to assess their own work in relation to their peers. Students start to develop their sketchbook practice outside the timetabled class.

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. Curated submission of final and preparatory work to be assessed on the competency and creativity of the student. Attention will be given to the student's development from the first project to the final work	70%	12
Self-directed Study. Assessment of sketchbook work from 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

Speed, H., 1987. *Oil painting techniques and materials*, New York: Dover Publications.
Howell, D., 2014. *Painting with oils*, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire: The Crowood Press.