Glasgow School of Art Course Specification
Studio 4 - Situated Practice

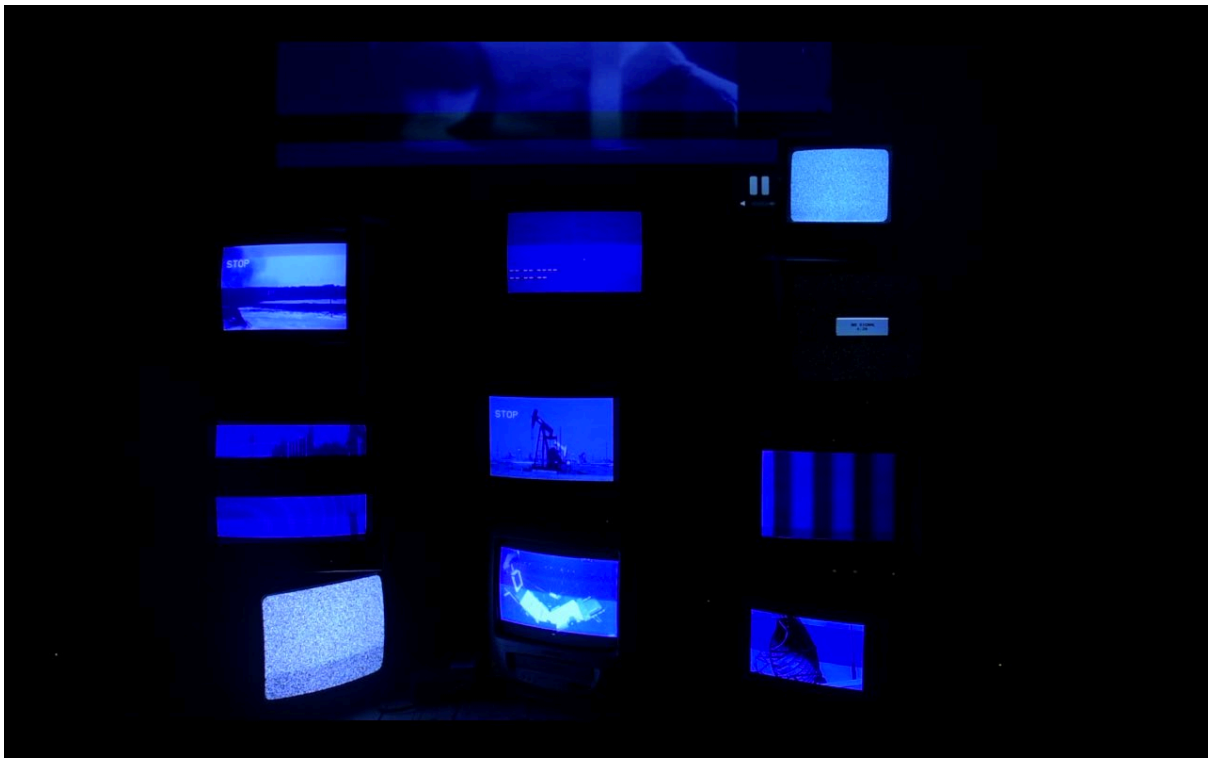


Image Credit: Eve King, 2023. *Obsolete Components*

Please note that this 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
USMI402		2027-28

Course Title	Studio 4 - Situated Practice
Course Contact	Adam Scott

Credits	20
SCQF Level	10
When Taught	Stage 4, Semester 1

Associated Programmes	BDes Sound
Lead School	School of Innovation and Technology (SIT)
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval October 2026

Course Introduction

This course focuses on the development of increasingly sophisticated forms of creativity using sound or audio-visual technology, the execution of a high-quality original output that demonstrates the students' professional expertise through making and critical writing, and the development of a heightened sense of professional identity in students.

Students are supported through building a portfolio that explores who they are as a practitioner. This portfolio of work is directed to employers, collaborators and institutions within the student's desired creative fields. Students can exercise their practical skills and their values; those found both internally on creative fields and those found in the broader social space, past present and future.

Course Aims

The course aims to

- Enable students to critically understand their creative practice and future career by conceptualising their agency within the traditions and conventions of their chosen creative field.
- Support students to create, discuss and critically improve a conceptually complex practical project, and encourage students to constructively critique each other's work.
- Prepare students to communicate their work to specialist and non-specialist audiences, considering the societal and/or environmental positioning and impact of their work

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Apply and justify the use of professional tools and workflows for a chosen field, with appropriate audio/audio-visual production and post-production processes
- Design and develop a self-directed work (sound-only, or audio-visual) that communicates an original concept informed by a chosen research theme.
- Critically reflect on and analyse individual practice through discussion and examination of key historical and contemporary theory on the chosen field of practice.
- Communicate project outcomes, concepts and processes in a structured and accessible manner to diverse audiences.

Indicative Content
Student projects will likely scatter amongst diverse fields of practice/industries so it would not be appropriate to teach domain-specific technical lectures for this project. Instead, lecture content will be relevant for all students covering: • philosophy of creativity agency and decision making • sociology of creative fields – makers, domain, audience • industry/community practical guidance in navigating institutional protocols around making work for a public audience (such as risk assessment, ethics, health and safety)

Description of Learning and Teaching Methods
There will be lectures covering commonly applicable themes (see above). In addition to lectures, students will be offered: • Interactive guided group discussions • Preparatory self-directed learning activities (using interactive learning technologies such as Padlet). These activities will enhance the depth of discussions in class, and scaffold the learning process, to motivate the students along this extended self-directed project conceptualisation and production. • Supported time to work on their projects in the classroom alongside eachother, built into the timetable. Staff will be present, moving around the room to aid students as they work. This is to build a studio community ethos, with the collective to build incentive and accountability to work (individually, but in proximity). Student work is primarily developed through self-directed study and development, supported by regular group reviews of work in progress in interactive lab sessions. Course tutors and Teaching Assistants are additionally available to provide critical commentary and analysis of student work in progress. Students will be encouraged to communicate their processes and outcomes, as **presentation skills** are taught in addition to the studio techniques and creative ideation.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
20	200

Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods
Students are supported in their learning through a range of formative assessment activities as they progress through the course. These include: • Engagement in peer review workshops/presentations (as a whole cohort or in small groups) • In-class discussion and question-and-answer activities • Written or verbal feedback on work in progress • Formal review point half-way through the course

Description of Summative Assessment arrangements
This Course has two summative assessment components: **Practical output** Students will submit a practical output (or documentation of a live practical output) in the form of a video / audio file.

Critical Reflection & Statement (1500 words)
The Critical Reflection & Statement document is 1500 words total, not including references. The critical reflection and statement should present a suitable conceptual analysis, using appropriate specialist terminology and academic references. The included Statement will be in the form of a short text (200-300 words) written for the public audience explaining the practical work in accessible language.

Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the Code of Assessment.

Students are awarded an aggregate grade based on the weighted grade of the two components.

Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the Code of Assessment.

Description of Summative Assessment Method	**Weight %**	**Submission week**
Practical output	70%	Week 12
Critical Reflection & Statement (1500 words)	30%	Week 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

The course indicative reading and on-line resource list is accessible via Resource Lists (see "The Work" section and domain-specific sub-sections). This list will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect course content and subject developments.