

Course Code:

PCRS113

Session

2017/18

1. Course Title:

Core Research Skills in writing in Art, Design and Architecture: Practice and Theory

2. Date of Production/Revision:

3 February 2015

3. Level:

SCQF 11

4. Credits:

15

5. Lead School/Board of Studies:

Graduate School

6. Course Contact:

Dr Anna Fisk

7. Course Aims:

The course '**Writing in Art, Design, and Architecture: Practice and Theory**' will deepen your knowledge about writing, develop your writing skills, and facilitate discussion about writing. It will help to increase your familiarity with different forms of writing, specifically those you use and encounter in the study and practice of art, design, and architecture. The course will enable you to evaluate what kind of writing is appropriate in what context, and exercise your critical and analytical skills in reading different kinds of writing. The course will support you in developing your ability and confidence in writing, and help you to think critically and reflectively about your own work. Through participation in class discussion you will gain confidence in verbally expressing your ideas, and attending and responding to others' ideas. You will also develop your skills as a reviewer by reading and providing positive comments and constructive criticism on your peers' writing. These skills are integral to academic research.

The course is in two parts: the first involving reading and group discussion on different forms of writing on art and design; the second peer review of participants writing.

This course aims to:

- Provide students with a variety of core research tools that are equally useful across a range of fields of postgraduate study;
- Facilitate cross-disciplinary thought and practical connections, by bringing together students on different programmes of study;
- Enable students to conduct and manage their own self-contained research projects;
- Interrogate the relationships between forms of research and modes of practice.

8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Use appropriate research resources and methods effectively;
- Understand the principles underpinning research at postgraduate level;
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationships between research and practice;
- Organise and conduct research projects effectively and efficiently.

9. Indicative Content:

- Introducing research skills for postgraduate students
- Conceptualising a research question
- Understanding research resources
- Finding and managing information
- Mapping the context
- Developing and managing a project of research
- Practice as research
- Disseminating research outcomes

10. Description of Summative Assessment:

Full attendance at lectures, seminars and group discussions is expected. In addition to this, students will be required to submit an assignment and/or presentation that presents an analysis of an idea or concept, artwork, practitioner, or debate which they consider to be at the cutting edge of their field of enquiry. This final assessment submission consists of the following:

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Portfolio	Annotated portfolio of research sources, including a 500 word reflective evaluation (see details below)	100%	End of Stage 1

10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:

This course has a 'portfolio' approach to assessment, with several compulsory assignments combining to give the final total grade.

- Students will be assessed on the basis of reading assignments, written reflection on group discussion, written peer-review comments, student's own writing sample (500 words), and a reflective evaluation of your writing sample and the peer-review.

All written assignments for this course, whatever the genre, should cohere to academic convention: i.e. your sources should be documented with full references, correctly formatted. It is recommended that you use *either* the footnote system or the author-date system of the Chicago Manual of Style referencing system: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Assessment Criteria

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- conceptualise and present a research problem;
- utilize appropriate methods and tools when conducting a research project;
- situate their projects of research within a research context;
- critically reflect on the success and effectiveness of their own projects of practice and research;
- demonstrate a level of depth in the analysis of works, practitioners, ideas and/or debates appropriate to postgraduate level

Please also refer to the course handbook for further specific guidance about the assessment criteria.

11. Formative Assessment:

Formative Assessment takes place in week 5/6. During Reading Week, each student on the course will have one fifteen-minute individual tutorial to give and receive feedback on their learning on the course.

11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:

Please refer to handbook for details about the formative assessment arrangements.

12. Collaborative:

Yes

No

12.1 Teaching Institutions:**13. Requirements of Entry:**

None

14. Co-requisites:

None

15. Associated Programmes:

All Postgraduate Taught Programmes

16. When Taught:

Stage 1

17. Timetable:

2 hours, Wednesday mornings between 9 – 1 pm.

18. Available to Visiting Students:Yes No **19. Distance Learning:**Yes No **20. Placement:**Yes No **21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	20	20
Tutorial		
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	130
Other (please specify below)		
TOTAL	20	150

22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:**23. Additional Relevant Information:**

This course introduces students taking taught postgraduate programmes at the Glasgow School of Art to a range of core research skills, from formulating research questions to methods of utilizing visual and written sources. The ways in which postgraduate study differs from undergraduate – and the significance of research to this distinction – will be explored. Central to the course is the importance of research for practitioners, and the notion of practice as a form of research.

The Core Research Skills courses taught in Stage 1 may include the following:

- **Academic Skills for Masters Research**
- **Archives and Historical Resources**
- **Business Skills and Creative Entrepreneurship**
- **Writing in Art, Design and Architecture**
- **Drawing as Research**
- **The Sociological Imagination**
- **Popular Culture and Creative Practice**
- **Philosophy and Creative Practice**
- **Analysis and Self Analysis**
- **Design Ethnography in Practice: applying the ethnographic perspective**
- **Visual Mapping: Analysis and Presentation through Graphics**

24. Indicative Bibliography:

- Glenn Adamson, *Thinking Through Craft*. Oxford: Berg, 2007, pp.36-7. Available on VLE.
- Sylvan Barnet. *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008, pp. 11-13, 159-163. Available on VLE.
- Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, extract in *Rethinking Architecture*, edited by Neil Leach. London: Routledge, 1997, pp. 84-7, 91-4. Available on VLE.
- Stephen Cheeke. *Writing for Art: The Aesthetics of Ekphrasis*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010, pp. 1-4. Available on VLE.
- Michael Clarke. "Language and Visual Artefacts." In *Verbalising the Visual: Translating Art and Design into Words*. Lausanne: AVA, 2007, pp.21-7. Available online from GSA library catalogue: <http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/gsa/>
- James Elkins. *What Happened to Art Criticism?* Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2003, pp. 16-19, 26-32, 35-6, 49-53. Available on VLE.
- Peter Lia. 'Using Gibbs' Reflective Cycle'.
Online: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/disability/service/Using-Gibbs-Reflective-Cycle-in-Coursework.pdf>
- Edward Relph. "On the Identity of Places." In *Urban Design Reader*, edited by Matthew Carmona and Steve Tiesdell. London: Taylor & Francis, 2008, pp. 103-7. Available online from GSA library catalogue: <http://capitadiscovery.co.uk/gsa/>
- [Jane Rendell](#). *Site-Writing: The Architecture of Art Criticism*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2010, pp. 1-6,

14-17. Available on VLE.