

**Course Code:**

PCUR303

**Session:**

2017/18

**1. Course Title:**

Dissertation

**2. Academic Session:**

2014-15

**3. Level:**

Level 5, SCQF Level 11

**4. Credits:**

60

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

School of Fine Art, Glasgow School of Art

**6. Course Contact:**

Dr Alistair Payne

**7. Course Aims:**

The MLitt Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) Programme jointly run by The Glasgow School of Art (in which it is housed) and Glasgow University aims to build a creative study culture and environment for a rewarding learning experience. A range of learning opportunities are offered throughout the programme, appropriate to the aims of each Stage. The aims reflect and prepare for, the professional context of Contemporary Art Curatorial Practice.

This course is designed to give students a platform to

- To develop and sustain an argument in an area of the student's personal research interest in their chosen subject area
- To promote an engagement with other scholarly, critical, or theoretical arguments relevant to that area.
- To encourage the application of acquired research skills to a supervised project.

## **8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

On completion of the dissertation students should be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the main relevant primary sources in their chosen subject area
- Demonstrate mastery of the main relevant secondary sources in their chosen subject area
- Demonstrate substantial and detailed first-hand knowledge of their chosen subject area
- Demonstrate the ability to define, plan, and execute a sustained, focused, and coherent research project
- Demonstrate ability to use all appropriate bibliographic and information resources
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently
- Demonstrate the ability to execute a substantial piece of written work in clear and appropriate academic English
- Demonstrate mastery of all relevant reference and bibliographic conventions

## **9. Indicative Content:**

This course comprises three strands: a) historical, contemporary and theoretical perspectives on curatorial practice, b) independent project development, and c) critical engagement with core aspects of professional practice. Through this combination of lectures, tutorials and workshops, students will have been able to identify their own independent knowledge of Curatorial Practice and approaches relating to the visual arts. Throughout this Stage students will receive individual and group supervision sessions as they develop to completion their final Dissertation.

From the outset, students will also have access to some project space, and they will be actively encouraged and supported to test and develop projects alongside practising Fine Art students.

This final 60-credit Masters Project option for the students on the Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) focuses through the submission of an extended dissertation. In effect this option allows the students to critically analyse and develop their ideas, historically, contextually, creatively and innovatively through the theoretical (written) application of knowledge. This will be supported by tutorials and seminars throughout the Stage led by staff that will help to develop from the proposal and realise the project and dissertation throughout the course.

## **10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

Description of Summative Assessment:

- A Dissertation (15,000 – 20,000 words) **100%**

### **10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

The Summative Assessment within the Dissertation has one submission and Summative Assessment point, which occurs at the end of the course with submission of the written Dissertation. The grade awarded results from a diagnostic breakdown of learning achievements, strengths and weaknesses.

The full written Dissertation will be submitted for assessment at this point.

**11. Formative Assessment:**

Feedback will be given on independent project work and throughout the writing process (draft submissions) by tutors, this feedback would happen during tutorial appointments and critique sessions. In this way feedback is an ongoing process and integral to the teaching and learning methods.

There will be a formal Formative Assessment point at the midpoint of the term with evidence of development and progression with feedback provided.

Support and guidance will also be given throughout Stage 3 as the student develops their independent project towards submission.

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

Feedback will be presented through tutorial appointments and critique sessions throughout the course. At the midpoint of the term students will be asked to present their work for formative assessment followed by feedback in relation to development and progression. This will include assessment of draft writing as well as practical projects and the development of the Masters Project/Dissertation proposal.

The dissertation is 15,000 - 20,000 words in length and will be on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the course convenor during Stage 1. A list of suitable topics proposed by members of staff will be available early in Stage 1.

A draft proposal should be submitted by the end of Stage 1 (week 14) and be discussed with and approved by a Departmental panel early in Stage 2. The Department will appoint a supervisor who will see the student to discuss and comment on the student's work at least four times during Stage 2. A planning draft will be submitted after the Easter vacation, and a draft version of the full dissertation by the end of Stage 2. The supervisor will comment on this version. The final version will be submitted in September.

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

Glasgow University (School of Culture and Creative Arts)

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

Students will have completed Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) by this point (with 120 credits) including the following courses:

Curatorial Practice 1 (40 credits)

Core Research Skills (20 credits)

Curatorial Practice 2 (45 Credits)

PGT elective (15/20 credits)

**14. Co-requisites:**

N/A

**15. Associated Programmes:**

Master of Letters in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art)

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 3

**17. Timetable:**

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A draft proposal should be submitted by the end of Stage 1 (week 14) and be discussed with and approved by a Departmental panel early in Stage 2. The Department will appoint a supervisor who will see the student to discuss and comment on the student's work at least four times during Stage 2. A planning draft will be submitted after the Easter vacation, and a draft version of the full dissertation by the end of Stage 2. The supervisor will comment on this version. The final version will be submitted in September.

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**

Yes

No

**19. Distance Learning:**

Yes

No

**20. Placement:**

Yes

No

<b>21. Learning and Teaching Methods:</b>		
<b>Method</b>	<b>Formal Contact Hours</b>	<b>Notional Learning Hours</b> (Including formal contact hours)
Project supervision	20	150
Studio/Workshop	10	100
Seminar/Presentation <i>Inc. Studio Critique</i>		
Tutorial	20	100
Workshop <i>Induction/Instruction</i>		
Independent Study (Guided)	0	100
Private Study/Fieldwork	10	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>600</b>

<b>22. Description of “Other” Teaching and Learning Methods:</b>
<p>A guiding principle of the programmes pedagogical strategy is that learning and teaching is actively informed by the teaching staff’s professional practice and research. All Curatorial Practice tutors are practising curators, theorists and/or artists.</p> <p><b>Teaching and Learning Methodology</b></p> <p>The programme is structured around the core principle of the integration of theory and practice. The methods of teaching explore the inter-relationships of the theoretical with the practical.</p> <p>This Stage of the programme is built around the core of independent practice supported by tutorials and seminars.</p> <p>In Stage 3 students have the opportunity to select one from three choices for their final project, either the Masters Project in Curatorial Practice 1 (a fully realised practical project and portfolio), Masters Project in Curatorial Practice 2 (a practical project and written essay submission) or a Dissertation (fully written Dissertation). Through these pathways the student has the opportunity to extend their understanding and knowledge of Curatorial Practice either practically or theoretically.</p> <p>The core of the learning is focused around the growth of an independent curatorial practice and this is supported throughout the term with the development of knowledge and independence gained through the different aspects of the teaching activities.</p> <p>Critical discourse in the School Of Fine Art and the School of Culture and Creative Arts is valued as a key learning and teaching tool and is embedded in the activities above. Critical discourse is crucial to the transfer of knowledge, contextualising individual practice, as well as fostering a culture of reciprocal learning within the student cohort.</p> <p>Professional practice is an integral part of studying at the School of Fine Art and is embedded with the course curriculum of the stages of the programme, or provided by the Careers Service. It provides students with the opportunities, experience and skills to engage professionally within the local, national and international art world and curatorial contexts.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gallery, collections, archives and museum visits.</li> </ul>

- The development of a critical language through critique.
- Presenting work formally for assessment.
- Networking with external organisations
- Working with others (ethical implications)
- Conforming to professional standards operational throughout the sector

**23. Additional Relevant Information:**

**24. Indicative Bibliography:**

Issued via VLE including recommendations for purchase

**Date of production / revision**

**04 April 2014**