

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts

Course: Introduction to Drawing
Title: SA 2610A

Course Description

SA 2601A is an introduction to drawing as an independent practice. The course will focus on the drawing medium as a tool for conceptual, perceptual, and technical problem solving. We will explore the practice of drawing as a form of knowledge production and exploration. We will consider drawing's various media and techniques, as well as the development of skills such as hand-eye co-ordination, careful attention to perception, exploration, and focused conceptual engagement. Through the investigation of a range of media and techniques, this course will assist students in establishing a visual language and critical framework through which to create, look at, analyze and discuss drawing as a practice.

Students will develop an understanding of both the historical and contemporary uses and ideologies surrounding drawing, via lectures, discussions, critiques of student work, and studio demonstrations. In-class critiques and instructor feedback will assist students in developing their formal drawing skills and a critical language within which to discuss their work. All students will be expected to engage in rigorous experimentation when responding to class projects.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand and creatively use the concepts, materials and skills involved in drawing – including the use of charcoal, inks, pencil(s), papers and various other drawing media.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to participate constructively in group discussion and critiques in order to evaluate and express drawing as a means of problem solving, exploration and investigation.
3. Students will be able to identify various ways the practice of drawing operates critically and responds to our experiences of the world. Students will also discover drawing's provisional quality relative to other art media, such as painting or sculpture and also gain an understanding for the ways in which drawing has relevance within a breadth of other disciplines.

Attendance, Participation and Preparedness

Attendance is mandatory and regularly taken. Students are expected to show up to every class, on time, and with the appropriate materials and must clean up after themselves at the end of each class. Marks are deducted for lack of preparation (for example, attending class without having materials to work with). Students who miss class for medical reasons must present documented medical or bereavement excuses vetted through their academic advisor (see Department Medical Policy below). Missing classes, or part of a class without documented excuse or prior consultation with the instructor, will adversely affect students' grades. Missing more than 15% of classes without documentation (4 absences),

including late arrivals (2 lates/ early departures = 1 absence) or early departures, will result in students' being debarred from final assessments.

Failure to complete assignments without prior consultation with instructor may result in a failing grade. Failure to attend critique without prior consultation with instructor will result in a grade of zero. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with 10% per day late penalty deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day).

Students are expected to make themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates, and are required to complete all assignments by date of submission or critique. With fair notice to students, the course syllabus may change to adapt to class needs. It is the students' responsibility to remain apprised of such changes.

Critiques and shorter artwork discussion sessions are regularly scheduled and represent important assessment situations in the course. Student preparation and active participation in these sessions is a requirement of the course. In addition to affecting participation grades, students late or otherwise not prepared for scheduled critiques or discussions will forfeit the opportunity for class feedback on their work. Participation marks are awarded for demonstrated engagement in oral critiques and class discussions.

Due to the intensive nature of SA 2610A students will be required to work on assignments independent of in-class studio time. Students should be prepared to spend at least one hour working outside of class for every hour of class time to meet the course requirements. Studio space is available outside of class time as room scheduling permits.

Attendance:

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments.

Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero)

Grading Breakdown

Project #1 - Observation: Drawing Portfolio	20%
Project #2 - Uncanny Combinations: Subject and Mark-Making	20%
Project #3 - Drawing and Scale: Relationships to Body and Space	20%
Project #4 - Independent Project: Studio Exploration	20%
Participation: Thoughtful participation in discussions and critiques	10%
Attendance and Preparedness: Using in class time well/ arriving with materials ready	10%

Studio Materials

Set of 16 pencils (8B-6H), utility knife, white vinyl eraser, set of pencil crayons (preferably 34+ colours), wax crayons, vine charcoal, conte, ink (any colour or black), bamboo brush (three sizes), markers (your

choice), yellow manilla pad of paper 18" x 24", white pad of cartridge paper 18" x 24", drawing board 23" x 26", bulldog clips, clear ruler, 6 sheets of paper (we will discuss which types in class).

There *may be* additional materials that students will need to purchase which will pertain to their individual project ideas. Plenty of time will always be given to obtain these.

Shared lockers will be assigned to students. It is your responsibility to maintain the use of this locker in a cooperative spirit and to ensure that it is locked and that the supplies of others are respected.

Evaluation

All studio grades will reflect the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate*

- understanding and engagement of project concepts and parameters
- effort and ambition
- technical resourcefulness, proficiency, follow through
- inventiveness and initiative
- presentation, organization, communication of intent

Student work will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and numerical grades and detailed comments will be posted in gradebook on the course owl site after every project. The comments are of utmost importance as they will suggest future directions and areas to improve. All student work will be evaluated according to the Department Grading Criteria as outlined below.

Life Drawing Policy

Working with the nude model is part of the curriculum of this course, the Department of Visual Arts understands that some students might prefer an alternative assignment. In such cases, the following parameters will apply:

- (1) The professor will offer, in written format on the course outline, as well as explain on the first day of class, that there will be an alternative assignment to life drawing. Due to privacy reasons, students do not have to disclose the reason for requesting an alternative assignment.
- (2) The results of the alternative assignment should clearly demonstrate that no less than the number of hours spent with life drawing by the class has been devoted to the alternate assignment.
- (3) The student should be prepared to attend the beginning of each class where life drawing will be taught, to have attendance taken, to hear announcements and receive additional information about alternative assignment, as well as direction as to where to work in the Visual Arts Building on the alternative assignment.
- (4) The student should potentially be available to attend class in full at all times, including on short notice, in cases when the model has had to cancel, and an alternate activity needs to take place for the entire class.

ChatGBT and AI use policy

Do not use them! Your own original ideas, both written and visual, are more interesting than what AI can produce. If you need to use AI in the planning stages for any assignment, please speak with the instructor beforehand. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for

exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent work.

Department Grading Criteria

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **studio work** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The **studio work** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The **studio work** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

70-74 (Good, B)

The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The **studio work** demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The **studio work** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques.

Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The **studio work** demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

Prerequisite Checking:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which may be defined as “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own,” will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This includes presenting the visual or aural work of another creator as your own. Visual or Aural Plagiarism may involve both hand-based media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, as well as digital media such as photography, video and sound. It includes work subsequently manipulated or transferred between different media, as well as self-plagiarism – work submitted for assignments previously produced and graded for another course. Similar to textual plagiarism, all student work involving the visual or aural work of others must be appropriately cited/identified whether in print or orally. Failure to do so will lead to similar academic penalties as those identified in Western’s Academic Calendar.

Student Conduct:

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

Academic Sanctions:

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

The above prohibitions shall be in force until such time as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the satisfaction of the University.

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Electronic Devices:

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Artwork Installation Liability Release:

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.

Removal of Artwork:

Western University reserves the right to dispose of artwork not picked up by April 15th of each year.

Support Services:

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Health and Wellness:

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress

should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Statement on Gender and Sexual Based Violence

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms:

Middlesex College does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf. Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.