

Western University – Department of Visual Arts

AH9582A

At Large in the World: Art in Times of Crisis

Professor: Dr. Joy James
Class Day/Time: Wednesday 11:30-2:30pm
Location: Synchronous Online
Office Hours: Zoom meetings by appointment
Email: jjames53@uwo.ca

Course Description

Over the past two decades, scholarship in art criticism, theory, and practice has made a concerted bid for a critical productive aesthetic oriented toward the external eventfulness of life itself rather than circumscribed by historical limitations of disciplinary concern. An aesthetic that turns away from the longstanding preoccupation with defining “What is art?” to privilege fully the question of “What is this art doing?” The shift in focus necessarily disrupts disciplinary certainty. This course offers an opportunity to conduct an in-depth investigation into the transdisciplinary work of this emergent aesthetic. We will study significant events in the production, exhibition and circulation of art in times of crisis. As is fitting in the midst of a global pandemic, we will focus our exploration of art’s engagement with and impact on crises concerned with the world at large.

Evaluation

Attendance at all classes is expected, active participation and engagement requisite. The course calls for a sustained commitment to practices of critical reading, writing, and thinking. It is necessary for students to come to class fully prepared to take part in critical discussion of the readings and other materials assigned each week. All assignments are to be submitted on due dates unless other arrangements are made ahead of time.

Active Participation & Engagement	20%	Ongoing
Reading Presentation/Writing	15%	Dates to be assigned
Chapter Presentation/Writing	15%	Dates to be assigned
Research paper topic presentation	05%	Due date: Nov. 18 2020
Research Paper	45%	Due date: Dec. 09, 2020

Course Texts

Required text:

Jill Bennett, *Practical Aesthetics: Events, Affects and Art after 9/11 (2012)* available from the book’s publisher, I.B. Tauris Press, UK or US site, as well as various online distributors. I have placed an order with Western Bookstore but cannot guarantee timely arrival (once the Bookstore has the book in stock it must then be mailed to students’ home addresses). The book cost is approximately \$35.00 CAD. I have placed a print copy on 1-day loan at Weldon Library that will be available throughout the semester. However, I strongly advise purchasing a copy. We will be performing a close reading of the text and it will be necessary to have the week’s reading in hand for discussions.

Supplemental readings:

Throughout the course readings as determined relevant to unfolding seminar discussion will be posted on OWL course site.

- ***Detailed course syllabus will be addressed on the first day of class.***

**The University of Western Ontario
Visual Arts Department**

POLICIES

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.

**Accommodation, Illness Reporting and Academic Considerations
Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

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](#).

Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

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

Statements concerning Online Etiquette

To ensure the best experience for both you and your colleagues, please engage the following rules of etiquette:

- please “arrive” to class on time
- please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- to minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone when not speaking
- please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and artists/curators/authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

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.

For the 2020-2021 academic year the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be available by card access only for students who have in-person classes in the building.

Electronic Devices:

Students may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may they edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Support Services:

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

Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>

Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

Mental Health -- https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

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/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite (jslauen@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.
