

The University of Western Ontario: Dept of Visual Arts

VAH 3387G 001: Modernism and Interior Design

Weekly meetings: Tuesdays 11:30–2:30 p.m. in VAC100

Professor: Bridget Elliott

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Course Objectives

This course examines the work of certain interior designers whose work has been closely associated with modern movements in the visual arts. In particular, it considers those designers who developed an all-encompassing aesthetic rather than designing individual objects. The focus is on developments from 1850 until the present including the aesthetic movement, arts and crafts, early twentieth century avant-garde designers in Europe and America, art deco, Scandinavian modernism, pop, postmodernism and green/sustainable design.

Learning Outcomes*

Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks relating to twentieth century interior design and understand its relationship with the art world. They will be able to analyze individual interior designs from this period using these frameworks.

Students will utilize their knowledge of the methods and vocabularies used in the field of twentieth century interior design. They should be able to make appropriate judgments and sound arguments regarding particular historical developments and, by the end of the course, they should be able defend their arguments by mobilizing their knowledge of key designers and their most important projects.

Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing on the subject of their art historical and design research and be able to differentiate between scholarly and popular treatments of the subject.

** Please note these outcomes can only be achieved if the student completes all of the assigned work and participates each week.*

Required Texts and Course Materials

- Anne Massey, *Interior Design Since 1900*. 3rd edition. London: Thames & Hudson, 2008. Available from The Book Store at Western.
- pdf readings, lecture slides, syllabus and assignment instructions – see course site, UWO OWL

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

**Note that some of the pdf readings are required and others are optional. Optional readings posted on the course website are simply provided as further information. In other words, as far as assignments, tests and exams are concerned, you are not responsible for the material covered in the optional readings. Of course those who pursue the optional readings are welcome to use the information they contain at any point in the course.*

Course Requirements

10%	Participation (attendance and contribution to discussions)
15%	Assignment 1: due February 2, 2016
20%	Midterm Test (short answer): March 1, 2016 (at beginning of class)
25%	Assignment 2: due March 22, 2016
30%	Final Examination (short answer with one major essay question) in scheduled examination period

- **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend **all** class sessions and be prepared for and participate in all lectures and discussions. Under University regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final tests and exams. If a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for one hour, they will exceed the 15% cut off.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they sign the weekly attendance sheets circulated by the teaching assistant. Those students who attend 100% of the classes will receive 100% of the ten percentage points of the course assigned to attendance, those that attend 50% of classes will receive 50% for this portion of the course grade and so on.

- **Medical Policy:** Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>

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

- **Scholastic Offenses:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

- **Assignment 1 (due February 2, 2016)**

A critical written assessment (1000-1250 words) of some aspect of interior design. Details for this assignment will be discussed in class and posted on the course OWL site by January 12, 2016.

- **Assignment 2 (due March 22, 2016)**

A longer assignment with a critical written component of 1500-2000 words and an optional creative component. Details will be discussed in class and posted on the course OWL site by February 9, 2016.

Further Guidelines for Both Written Assignments:

***Length and format for submission:** Please note that both written assignments should be typed and not exceed the required length. The format for submission will be specified in the assignment instructions. Please place the word count of your essay underneath your name on the title page. We will not read untyped or additional pages.

***Late penalties:** Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. The papers must be submitted to the Course Website by 12:00 noon on the day of the deadline. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangement with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with a 2% per day deduction from the assignment. Any papers received after 12:00 noon on the day of the deadline will be judged one day late. Submissions after 12:00 noon the following day will be considered two days late (and so on) up to five calendar days beyond the deadline. Papers more than five days late will not be accepted and submission through the Course Website will be closed. Extensions will only be granted upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor who reports they have received documentation about a serious health condition or family/personal emergency.

***Plagiarism and Citation:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. The Department of Visual Arts uses the Chicago style but, in this class, MLA format is also acceptable. Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence and can result in failing an assignment. (See further discussion of this below on p. 5 of this syllabus.)

- **Midterm Test:**

The midterm test will be 90 minutes long and written at the beginning of class on March 1, 2016.

- **Final Examination**

The final examination will be 120 minutes long and written during the scheduled examination period in December. The exact date will be set by the Examinations Office. The examination will consist of a variety of questions including slide comparisons as well as short point form outlines and essay responses. The final examination will be cumulative and cover everything we have done in the course.

****Please note no electronic devices can be used during examinations and there will be no supplemental examinations except in officially documented cases of bereavement, or family or medical emergency.***

The University of Western Ontario Visual Arts Department

POLICIES

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.

Attendance:

A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

Prerequisites:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite 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). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html> or the 2015/2016 Western Academic Calendar, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)

Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Building Access:

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Please remember:

One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. David Merritt (tel. 519-661-3440; vaugc@uwo.ca). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counselor for your Faculty, IGA Building, Room 1N20 (Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the counselors for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities).

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services to students including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: www.lib.uwo.ca.

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students.

Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, finaid@uwo.ca; or check out their website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html

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

Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)

The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.