

**Western University  
Department of Visual Arts  
VAS 2204A  
Intro to Drawing**

Term/Session: Fall 2015  
Time Monday and Wednesday 11:30am - 2:30pm  
Location VAC 206  
Professor Colin Carney [ccarney@uwo.ca](mailto:ccarney@uwo.ca)  
Office Hours Monday 10:30 - 11:30am Rm. 241B

**Course Description/Objectives:**

This course is designed to introduce students to various foundational elements, both technical and critical, in contemporary drawing practices. Throughout this term, students will explore a variety of strategies and applications working toward fluency and competence in their drawing endeavours. Opportunities for skill acquisition along with experimentation and discovery will be promoted through various exercises and projects. This course will also serve as an introduction for students to various historical contexts and critical concerns which surround contemporary drawing. A combination of in-class exercises, major projects, sketchbook development, readings, slide presentations and critiques will occupy weekly class time. This course aims to foster habitual creativity in students and to guide them toward the highest standards of execution in all exercises and projects.

**Learning Outcomes:**

*Depth and Breadth of Knowledge*

Students will acquire the range of skills required to engage in the material practice being studied

*Re: Knowledge of Methodologies*

Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the medium, be able to identify various ways works in that medium operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects

*Application of Knowledge*

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance:**

Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical, as the teaching methods used will include class critiques, lectures and studio work. 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 evaluations and/or critiques.

**Studio Work:**

Students are expected to work in the studio during class times, plus an additional 3 hrs/wk out of class. Students are expected to keep a sketchbook and have a minimum of one new drawing ready for presentation each class.

All work for this course must be entirely the student's own and all sources used in written assignments must be properly cited. All course work must be done specifically for this class alone and completed punctually by the end of the course.

#### **End of Term:**

Students are required to clear out their lockers and remove any art projects at the end of each term. The department cannot be held responsible for any materials or work left after this time.

#### **Assignments/Late Assignments:**

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements 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. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

#### **Course Evaluation:**

All grades will be based on the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

- Understanding of project concepts and ability to express that understanding
- Ambition, resourcefulness, creativity
- Technical development
- Completion and quality of assignments
- Development and maturity of ideas
- Attendance and participation in class activities

#### **VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio**

These guidelines are benchmarks, 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 at the first year level are generally lower than at fourth year.

##### **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.

#### **Evaluation Breakdown:**

10% Attendance & Participation  
90% Assignments

#### **Course Timetable:**

Week 1 Introduction to course - outline, OWL, etc.

Observation based exercises  
pencils

Week 2 Observation based exercises

pencils and charcoal  
Homework Assignment #1 introduced

Week 3 Observation based exercises

pencils, conte and charcoal  
Homework Assignment #2 introduced

Week 4 Observation based exercises

ink and brushes  
various papers and techniques

Week 5 Thanksgiving (No class on Monday)

Critique - Homework Assignment #1 and #2

Week 6 Figure Drawing  
pencils and conte  
Homework Assignment #3 introduced

Week 7 Figure Drawing  
conte, charcoal, ink and brushes  
collaboration exercise

Week 8 Figure Drawing - Final long-pose sessions  
Conte, charcoal, ink and brushes  
Critique - Homework Assignment #3

Week 9 Environment - Observed  
Drawing boards, pencils, conte, charcoal  
Homework Assignment #4 introduced

Week 10 Environment - Imagined  
pencils, conte, charcoal, ink  
Homework Assignment #5 (final project) introduced

Week 11 Performance and Installation-based Drawing  
Collaborations and in-class exercises  
Homework Assignment #4 due

Week 12 Performance and Installation-based Drawing  
Drawing Interventions - documentation  
Work period

Week 13 Final critiques - All assignments due

**Materials:**

Drawing Board – minimum size 18" x 24"

Sketchbook – 8.5" x 11" or bigger to carry with you so you can draw wherever you are. It might be best to try a few different sizes.

3 Newsprint pads 18 x 24" (bring 1 pad to class every day)

Drawing pad (18" x 24" or larger) with bond paper

8 - 10 sheets of Stonehenge (22 x 30) or similar quality paper (Somerset and BFK are more expensive papers that will also work but are not mandatory for this course)

Compressed black charcoal

Black conté - black HB 1 stick,, black 2B 2 sticks

White conté

Black conté pencil

Graphite pencils 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B and graphite sticks

Chalk pastels

Kneaded eraser □ Rubber eraser

2 bulldog clips □ Thumbtacks/Push pins

Masking tape □ Ruler □ Scissors

Ink, brushes and rags □ Charcoal Blenders

Spray fixative

**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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:finaid@uwo.ca); or check out their website at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances/financial\\_counselling.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health:**

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

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

### **Safety and Maintenance Sheet**

#### **Drawing and Foundations Courses**

#### **Faculty Responsibilities:**

- Inform students about safe use of toxic materials and ensure that students are following safe procedures. In case of an emergency, call 911.
- Instruct students in the proper use of the spray booth in room 230 if they wish to use aerosol fixatives. (The door of the booth must be **closed** when in use.)
- At the end of each class, return props and drapes to the model closet.
- At the end of each class, return space heaters and skeleton to room 206A, and opaque projectors, slide projectors, etc. to room 244. In the case of evening classes, equipment may be stored in your office and returned the next day.
- Notify Marlene Jones of any burnt-out bulbs, broken or missing furniture, broken window blinds, etc.
- Inform students about general cleanup (including removal of paint, etc., from table surfaces), about storage of work in progress, and removal of completed marked work.
- Supervise students' adherence to the maintenance requirements listed below, under the heading "Student Responsibilities".

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

- When using paint, remember that some pigments are more hazardous than others. Take special care with cadmium colours, cobalt colours, manganese colours, zinc white, flake white, cerulean blue, vermilion red, burnt and raw umber.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while painting since these activities may lead to accidental ingestion of paint.
- Use aerosol fixative only in the spray booth in Room 230 or outdoors. Fine mists from these sprays can penetrate deep into the lungs.
- Flammable fixatives must be stored in the flammable cabinet located in the spray booth in 230 and not in your locker.
- At the end of each class, remove work-in-progress from easels, A-frames and walls, and store these works in your locker or storage racks.
- At the end of each class, clean all table surfaces. Throw used jars and other containers, and dirty rags and paper towels, into the garbage containers.
- **Take home all completed graded work.**
- Replace drawing boards in the model closet.

- Wash your hands thoroughly when you are finished working with dry or wet pigments or inks. Use a good hand cream after washing with soap, in order to prevent damage to your skin's natural defensive barrier.

**Please note: According to University regulations guiding "Laboratory Use," students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grades sent to the Registrar.**