

20TH CENTURY CANADIAN ART

VAH 2272G – winter 2017

Western University, Department of Visual Arts

Class time: Wednesdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (this is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings)

Location: NCB 117

Professor Sarah Bassnett

Email – sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca

Office hours – Thursdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 220

Teaching assistants – Beatriz Asfora: basfora@uwo.ca

TA office hours – TBA in VAC 240

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This survey of the visual arts in Canada in the 20th century focuses on important contributions within modernism and postmodernism and their relation to the social and political context. Taking a thematic and generally chronological approach, it concentrates on key movements in Canadian art, as well as issues and debates in Canadian art history. We discuss First Nations and Inuit art, cultural policy and the institutions of art, as well as collecting and curatorial practices in Canada. The course gives students an overview of the history of modern and contemporary Canadian art and encourages students to question their assumptions about art and culture in Canada. It provides an important foundation for students planning to work in Canada's arts and culture sector. This is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the significance of the work of important artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and artistic context in which it was produced
- describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of art works using appropriate terminology
- read, comprehend, and summarize the main argument of essays on Canadian art and explain your point of view on the issues, both orally and in writing
- conduct research, and use the sources effectively in a research assignment
- articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments
- participate constructively in online and in-class discussions by sharing ideas and listening respectfully to the views of others

PREREQUISITE / ANTI-REQUISITE

The prerequisite is two of VAH 1041A/B, 1042A/B, 1043A/B, 1044A/B, 1045A/B, or VAH 1040E. The anti-requisite is VAH 2276E. 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 the basis for an appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it without an adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required text for this course:

***The Visual Arts in Canada: The Twentieth Century*, edited by Anne Whitelaw, Brian Foss, and Sandra Paikowsky (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)**

The book is available at the University Bookstore and is also on two-hour reserve at Weldon Library. Additional required readings are posted as PDFs on OWL Sakai.

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have done the readings in preparation for the day they are listed. Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

GRADING

Attendance & participation	10%	Weekly
Reading responses	10%	Weekly
Mid-term test	20%	Feb. 15
Collections report	30%	March 15
Final exam	30%	Final exam period (April 9 - 30)