

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts

Course: Visual Arts Studio 1025
Title: VAS1025 (002) Advanced Foundations
Time: Monday and Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 in JLVAC 206 and 148
Term: Fall 2016/ Winter 2017
Professor: Anna Madelska (abarelk@uwo.ca)
Office: 241B
Office hours: 1:30-2:30 Monday
TA: Paul Chartrand (lchartr@uwo.ca)

Course Anti-requisite: VAS 1020

Course Description

VAS 1025 is an advanced level introduction to core studio practices in the visual arts. The course embraces an immersive and exploratory approach to art making - one informed by the creative tactics, critical concerns and historical precedents underpinning recent artists' practices. Organized around formal, material and thematic frameworks - class readings, lectures, field trips and workshops are offered in support of exercises and assignments designed to provide hands-on experience in studio problem solving processes. Working with 2D, 3D and time-based media including drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and multi-media practices, VAS 1025 facilitates the technical, creative and critical understandings of these approaches and provides students a formative groundwork for their continued practice and study.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. *Depth and Breadth of Knowledge:* Students will acquire a range of fundamental skills required to engage both technically and conceptually in the material art practices being studied. Students will also be familiar with relevant historical precedents relating to these practices as well as contemporary reconsiderations and adaptations.
2. *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain an understanding of conceptual/material methodologies through application of both traditional and non-traditional processes, developing and presenting ideas via drawing and other modes presenting ideas via drawing and other modes as well as through resources such as lectures and demonstrations and consultation with the instructor.
3. *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate in writing and orally regarding their projects and with respect to an informed foundational understanding of art/contemporary art, and will be skilled with a variety of formats of critique at the university level.

Important Resources

Owl. To facilitate aspects of VAS 1025, students can access the VAS 1025 Owl site through <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. Course outline, readings, slide lectures and class assignments will be posted to Owl in a timely manner.

Facebook. This site offers the opportunity to grow a social connection among the students, while also providing a playful discussion space that can continue to exist beyond the timeline of the course. We will set up a group for the class.

Tumblr. Primarily used personally, but also another venue for fostering discussions, interest and community among students. This will help to facilitate an ongoing research practice.

Course Requirements

Studio Assignments and Critique Discussions

Critiques and shorter artwork discussion sessions are regularly scheduled in VAS 1025 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.

Failure to complete assignments without prior consultation with instructor may result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with 2% per day late penalty deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day).

It is expected that students take notes on all lectures, presentations, and class discussions. A sketchbook or journal should be brought along to each class.

Participation and Attendance

Due to the intensive nature of VAS 1025 students will be required to work on some assignments independent of in-class studio work. This may occasionally involve undertaking more than one way of working at a time. In response, 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 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. 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, including late arrivals or early departures, may also result in students' being debarred from final assessments.

Workshops designed to orient students to specific facilities or media areas will be scheduled during class time. Attendance to these workshops is particularly important; workshops cannot normally be rescheduled for students who have missed class and may affect students' studio privileges in that area.

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.

Evaluation

Students work and performance will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and numerical grades will be posted on the course Owl site at mid and end points of each semester. All student work will be evaluated according to the following criteria (for more detail on terms of reference for studio grading see Department Grading Criteria below)

A+ 90 - 100%	Outstanding work, well exceeding the basic requirements of the project and demonstrating profound insight.
A 80 - 89%	Excellent work, well exceeding the basic requirements of the project and demonstrating creative insight.
B 70 - 79%	Very good work, showing thorough understanding of the course material and exceeding the basic requirements.
C 60 - 69%	Satisfactory work, meeting the basic project requirements and showing good understanding of the material.
D 50 - 59%	Satisfactory work that meets basic requirements and demonstrated some understanding of the course material, but not a thorough understanding.
F below 50%	Unsatisfactory work which shows insufficient effort or comprehension.

Grading Breakdown

Studio Assignments	80%
Research	10%
Attendance, participation, and professionalism	10%

Each term is worth 50% of the total course value.

Studio Assignments

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

Work will be handed in for regular grading and will be given a number grade based on the following grading scorecard: **Idea/Concept, Preparation, Material Execution, Presentation.** Students' artwork will be provided with verbal comments during critiques. Formal evaluation of students' progress will take place after the presentation.

Attendance, Participation and Professionalism

Attendance and participation in all class activities is mandatory. Grades for attendance are tallied as follows: 5% percent per semester. Perfect attendance= 5%, 1 absence= 4%, 2= 3%, 3=2%, 4 = 1%, please note any more than 4 absences in a semester could lead to being debarred from participation in final critiques. 2 Lates = 1 Absence. A student is considered absent if they miss more than half a class on a given day. *See course requirements for more detail regarding attendance policy.* Marks will also be awarded for class Participation and Professionalism (5% per semester), including for demonstrated engagement in class activities as well as oral participation in critiques and in class discussions. Marks are deducted for lack of preparation (for example, attending class without having materials to work with).