

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

Course: Image Explorations Visual Arts Studio 2100A, Fall 2016

Time: Monday 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Professor: Geordie Shepherd

Office Hours: Monday 4:30 – 5:30 pm by appointment

Location: VAC 230

Office: VAC 213

email: gshephe@uwo.ca

Course Description

This is an introductory course exploring two-dimensional design and creative and imaging principles such as the study of composition and colour theory, examining critical frameworks through readings and discussions, and expanding image literacy through communal research. Classes will consist of varying combinations of slide lectures, class discussions, technical demonstrations, critiques and studio time.

Students will produce a body of work that demonstrates their understanding of the technical skills and key concepts presented in each of the course sections, which will be informed by course readings, slide lectures, independent research, group discussions and critiques.

Learning Outcomes

Depth & breadth of Knowledge: Students will acquire a fundamental knowledge of the basic formal and technical concepts and vocabulary of drawing.

Knowledge of Methodology: Students will gain an understanding of drawing and painting's critical potential, be able to identify various ways drawing and paintings operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects.

Application of Knowledge: Students will engage their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the critical potential of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects in order to create a body of work.

OWL / Sakai Documentation

Readings and documents pertaining to lessons will be posted on Owl/ Sakai in the resources folder. It is your responsibility to ensure you read and understand them before class time.

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

Cell Phones & Social Media

The use of cell phones & computers during class time for any purpose other than research related to our course is not permitted. Please turn off ringers and refrain from checking & replying to texts & messages.

Sketchbook

A sketchbook is a visual diary of one's influences, emotions, experiences and thoughts, a place to practice techniques, and can serve as resource file, notebook and is a graded component in this course.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to punctually attend *all* class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. This is a Studio course, and great emphasis is placed upon in-class work, feedback and discussion. Under university regulations, students who miss more than 15% of the course hours (2 classes) without prior consultation or documentation (medical or bereavement vetted through student's faculty academic advisor) can be debarred from final studio critiques and examinations. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cut-off and be disbarred.
- Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates stated in the syllabus unless a previous agreement has been made with the instructor. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a failing grade. Penalty for late work is 2% per day (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day).
- Students are expected to arrive at the beginning of class with all project materials listed in the project description, and thoroughly clean their workspace after each session. It is particularly disrespectful to a model to arrive late, or unprepared, for life-drawing sessions; as well as being a waste of limited resources.
- Students should spend a minimum 4-8-hours per week working outside of class fulfilling course requirements.
- Students must adhere to health and safety guidelines in accordance with departmental regulations, failure to comply could result in removal from the course with a failing grade.
- Cell Phones must be turned off during all classes

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 the department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments. Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

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.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>
Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>

All grades will reflect the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

- Successful completion and understanding of general course objectives (as above), and specific assignment objectives.
- Technical and conceptual development of all assignments.
- A demonstrated understanding of project concepts and the ability to clearly communicate that understanding.
- A degree of inventiveness and ambition displayed in completed assignments.
- A willingness to participate in, and a level of demonstrable commitment to, *all* class activities.

According to the above criteria, students will be assessed as follows:

Project #1 (drawing)	25%
Project #2 (colour schemes)	5%
Project #2 (collage & translated image)	25%
Project #3 (Image explorations)	25%
Sketchbook	5%
Participation	15%

A mid semester grade based on Project #1 will be released on October 24th

Based on the success in meeting the above criteria, grades will be assessed as follows:

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.

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 www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html# or the 2016/2017 Western Academic Calendar, p. 18-19, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.) 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.

Medical Policy:

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Mental Health:

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

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

Permission re: Promotion

You grant permission for Western University to reproduce your name, information describing your artwork, representations of your work and any other information you have provided for the purpose of display, promotion and publicity either now or in the future.

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including, without limitation, advertising, display, editorial, packaging, promotion, television, social media, the Department of Visual Arts website, flickr, Twitter, Instagram etc.). Students wishing to not have their work photographed should not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre.

You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

Artwork Installation Liability Release

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. **If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.**

Removal

Western University reserve the right to dispose of artwork not picked up by April 15th of each year.

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, Professor C. Barteet (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. Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the academic counselors in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities located in IGA Building, Room 1N20.

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services 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