The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts

Course: Visual Arts Studio 1025
Title: VAS1025 (001) Advanced Foundations
Time: Monday and Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 in JLVAC 302 and 148
Term: Fall 2017/ Winter 2018
Professor: Anna Madelska (abarelk@uwo.ca)
Office: 241B
Office hours: 1:30-2:30 Monday
TA: Tyler Durbano (gdurbano@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.

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 Per Term

TERM ONE

Project #1: Photo and Video	*10%*
Project #2: Drawing	*10%*
Project #3: Student Presentations	*10%*
Project #4: Sculpture	*10%*
Participation: Thoughtful participation in discussions and critiques	*5%*
Attendance and Preparedness: Using in class time well/ arriving with materials ready	*5%*

TERM TWO

Project #5: Publications	*10%*
Project #6: Student Presentations	*10%*
Project #7: Painting	*10%*
Project #8: Independent Projects	*10%*
Participation: Thoughtful participation in discussions and critiques	*5%*
Attendance and Preparedness: Using in class time well/ arriving with materials ready	*5%*

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).

Department Grading Criteria

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.

Materials

Materials Storage
Shared lockers will be assigned to students. It is your responsibility to maintain the use of this locker in a cooperative spirit and to ensure that it is locked and that the supplies of others are respected.

1025 Basic Supplies
All students are required to pay a materials fee of $30.00 to cover a student Safety Kit (10$) and class purchasing budget (20$) for collectively used materials. This fee is payable by cash or cheque (payable to Western University - Dept. Visual Arts) within the first two weeks of the course.

Specific materials pertaining to individual assignments and media will always be discussed in class early enough so you will be able to purchase what you need in advance for your projects. There will be times when you can share materials - this will also be discussed in class.

Art Supply Stores: Please call ahead to confirm store hours
Bijan's Art Studio on Mill Street, north side, just off of Richmond Street, 2 blocks south of Oxford – right across from Barney's – free parking on Mill Street 519-439-1340 – on Richmond 6, Wellington 13 or University bus routes
Curry's corner of Wharncliffe and Southdale (accessible by Wharncliffe bus, but quite out of the way)

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Safety and Maintenance Responsibilities in Drawing and Foundations

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 there 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.
- 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.

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 www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html# 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:
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.

Re: Medical Illness:
For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf
[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading]

Instructor's Policy re: Assignments totaling less than 10%
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.

Mental Health Policy:
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/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 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

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