

Western University
Department of Visual Arts

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population.

VAH1041B

Art, Visual Culture, and Power

Winter 2019

Professor: C. Sprengler

Office: VAC 218

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am or by appointment

Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Lectures: Thursdays 2:30-4:20 in MC110

Teaching Assistants/Office Hours

Leah Abaza (labaza@uwo.ca) Tuesday 2:30-3:30 Rm 242

Iraboty Kazi (ikazi3@uwo.ca) Rm 240

Nak Alariaq (nalariaq@uwo.ca) Thursday 4:30-5:30 Rm 242

Samantha Merritt (smerrit6@uwo.ca) Rm 240

Margherita Papadatos (mpapadat@uwo.ca) Rm 240

Meghan O'Neill (moneil53@uwo.ca) Rm 242

Michelle Liu (mliu374@uwo.ca)

Course Description

This course introduces students to the complex relationships between art and power and the ways in which both have been defined, engaged and mobilized from ancient times to the present. We will take a chronological approach that emphasizes the social contexts of the artistic practices surveyed and considers how certain intellectual contexts gave rise to specific conceptions of power. As such, we will also pay close attention to the philosophical, religious, political and scientific forces that led to significant cultural shifts and shaped the character of artistic periods.

Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to help students develop the following:

- knowledge about artistic and visual cultural production within a series of diverse historical contexts
- understanding of the issues and debates pertaining to the study of art and visual culture
- familiarity with the terminology, stylistic classifications and methodologies employed in the study of art and visual culture
- the ability to communicate in written form the knowledge acquired about art and visual culture in relation to questions of power

Required Texts

Richard Lewis and Susan I. Lewis, *The Power of Art*, 3rd Edition Revised. Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2019.

Evaluation

In-class Test: 30%

Date: Thursday February 14, 2019

Project: 30%

Due: March 14, 2019

Final Exam: 40%

Date: Scheduled during the April examination period.

General Course Policies

1. Tests and examinations start at the beginning of class. Time lost due to late arrival will not be made up.
2. Late Assignments: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Assignments are considered late after the start of class the day they are due. Extensions will be given *only* upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor documenting bereavement or serious health issues. All other late essays are subject to a 10% penalty per day.
3. Syllabi and other relevant course information will be posted on Owl.

4. Attendance is required.
5. Plagiarism will not be tolerated! For information concerning UWO's Plagiarism and Academic Offenses (Scholastic Offences) consult the Western Academic Calendar.
6. Emails:
 - a. Assignments will not be accepted through email.
 - b. Grades will not be discussed through email.
 - c. Be sure to keep emails brief and to the point and use standard formatting. Do not use short form or abbreviated expressions.
 - d. Be sure to identify your name and contact information in the email.
 - e. I will make every effort to reply to your email within two business days.
7. Electronic Devices: You may use a computer in class to take notes. All other activities (e.g. checking email or social media sites, etc.) are prohibited. Students must turn off all cell phones, PDAs, or similar electronic devices while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Should you need to receive a phone call during class time, I ask that you first notify me at the beginning of class and that you keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom to receive the call.
8. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the term. Should a change be required, you will be given prior notice.
9. All students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and treat all members of the University community with respect.
10. A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.