

**Western University
Department of Visual Arts**

VAS 2204A Introduction to Drawing

Term/Session: Fall 2018

Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30am - 2:30pm

Location: VAC 206/249

Professor: David Merritt dmerritt@uwo.ca Office Hours Thursday 10:30 - 11:30am, Rm. 233

TA: George Kubresli gkubresl@uwo.ca

Course Description/Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to the technical approaches and conceptual principles that are foundational to contemporary drawing practices. Throughout this term, students will explore a variety of strategies and applications working toward fluency and competence in their drawing endeavors. Opportunities for skill acquisition along with experimentation and discovery will be promoted through various exercises and projects. This course will also serve as an introduction for students to various historical contexts and critical concerns which inform contemporary drawing. A combination of in-class exercises, major projects, sketchbook development, readings, slide presentations and critiques will occupy weekly class time. This course aims to foster sustainable creative practices in students and to guide them toward the highest standards of execution in all exercises and projects.

Learning Outcomes:*Depth and Breadth of Knowledge*

Students will acquire the range of technical and conceptual skills required to begin to engage in a drawing practice

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the medium, be able to identify the various ways that works in the medium operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects

Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects

Electronic Resources:*Owl*

To facilitate aspects of 2204A, students can access the Owl site through <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> Course outline, calendar, announcements, class assignments and other support materials will be posted to Owl in a timely manner.

Email

Personal communication with individual students will also be conducted using the students Western email. It is essential that students regularly check their UWO accounts and assure there is capacity to receive communications.

Course Requirements:*Attendance*

Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical, as the teaching methods used will include class critiques, lectures and studio work. 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.

Studio Work and Assignments

Students are expected to work in the studio during class times, plus an additional 3 hrs/wk out of class. Students are expected to regularly keep a sketchbook and have a minimum of 7 new drawings ready for presentation each week.

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.

All work presented for this course must be entirely the student's own and all sources used in visual or written assignments must be properly cited. All assignments must be completed specifically for this class alone and punctually submitted and/or presented by posted deadline or critique.

Students arriving late for critiques may forfeit the opportunity for class discussion of their work.

Late Assignments

Failure to complete assignments without prior consultation with instructor may result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, late work may be accepted with 5% per day late penalty deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day). Under University regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or critiques.

Evaluation:

Grading Breakdown:

Sketchbook:	20%
Portfolio Drawings:	20%
Architecture and Space:	15%
Independent Project:	15%
Attendance*:	5%
Participation/other submissions:	10%

*Attendance: Attendance records are kept for every class session. Grades for attendance will be calculated accordingly: Perfect attendance= 5%, 1 absence= 4%, 2= 2%, 3=1%, 4 = 0%. Note 3 unexcused absences in a semester could lead to being debarred from the class.

2 Lates or Early Exits=1 Absence. Students missing more than half a class on a given day are considered absent.

Grading Protocol:

Work will be handed in for regular grading and will be given a number grade based on the following grading scorecard: Idea/Concept, Preparation/Development, Material Execution, Presentation. Students' artwork will be provided verbal comments during critiques. All graded work will be evaluated and posted to the course Owl site as promptly as possible after submission. Final student grades for the course will be posted to the site after departmental approval following the end of the semester.

Grading Criteria:

All student work will be evaluated according to the following criteria (for more detailed info see below under Visual Arts Department Policies:

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.
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All grades will be based on 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
- Attendance, preparation and participation in class activities

Materials:

- 5 x 7" (minimum) or 7.5 x 10" (maximum) sketchbooks
- 18" metal and 12" clear ruler
- 5H, 4H, 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 5B pencils
- 6B graphite stick
- pencil sharpener or utility knife
- white vinyl and kneadable erasers
- vine and compressed charcoal
- soft conte (dark and light)
- india or sumi ink,
- washwater containers, cloth rags
- bamboo brush (#4 - #14)
- watercolour 12 pan set
- watercolour brushes (#1/#6 round)
- set of coloured pencil crayons
- yellow manila pad of paper 18" x 24",
- white pad of cartridge paper 18" x 24"
- drawing board 23" x 26", bulldog clips (may be available in studio)
- 6 sheets of selected drawing paper (we will discuss types in class)
- dust/vapour mask
- spray fixative

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.

Recommended Supplier:

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 east side driveway– bus on University Richmond 6, or Wellington 13 routes.
519-439-1340: *Best call ahead to confirm store hours*

Mental Health Assistance

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.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

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, totaling 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.

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 <http://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.

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.

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 license 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 University College Room 2230.

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

Academic Sanctions:

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

The above prohibitions shall be in force until such time as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the satisfaction of the University
http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio

These guidelines are benchmarks, not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades at the first year level are generally lower than at fourth year.

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.