



Western University
Department of Visual Arts
VAS3340-2018/19
Advanced Photo
VAC 134/135
Thursdays 09:30-12:30

Professor: Kelly Wood
Office: VAC 119
Office Hours: Thursdays, 13:00-14:30 or by appointment
Email: kwood@uwo.ca

Advanced Photography

This course is a survey and study of various contemporary approaches to photographic history and practice. The class will be organized around various technical demonstrations and tutorials. This class will offer tutorials and demonstrations of digital photographic techniques using small format photography. Lectures and historical support material will be organized thematically. Students will benefit from exposure to a diverse and wide-ranging field of approaches to photography and are presented with productive evaluative modes of interpretation.

Introductory visual presentations and lectures will be offered in this class. Students of this course will be required to make a formal presentation of a selected topic, and, write a review and/or response to a reading assignment. This course will primarily involve the production of a number of photographic projects that will expand and practically inform the theoretical discussions based in the thematic presentations.

Note:

An aim of this course is to expose the student to a very broad range of photographic art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is nowadays called 'mature subject matter'. Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to independently formulate and realize visual ideas with appropriate technical competence in digital image capture and digital post-production photography. The student will benefit from an introduction to small-format camera techniques, studio practices and basic to advanced digital photography techniques. The student will also learn to critically assess and discuss their own work, and the work of their peers, with reference to recent professional practices and theoretical models of photography-based art making presented and discussed in class.

Learning Outcomes:

Successful students of this class will gain the ability to use a basic range of established techniques in the field of contemporary digital photography. Students will acquire a general knowledge and understanding of many key concepts, methodologies, and theoretical approaches in contemporary art photography. While engaging in creative activity in the primary area of study, students will foster, where appropriate, an ability to gather, review, evaluate and interpret information relevant to contemporary photography. Students will gain transferable photographic skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and/or other activities.

Course Materials*:

A small-format, digital, single-lens reflex camera (D-SLR) is required for this course (minimum 12MB image file adequate). In some cases, a higher-quality, point-and-shoot camera with creative control functions may be acceptable. **Some** digital cameras are available at the Visual Arts department sign-out office. Students will find it useful to have a 'memory stick,' or, external hard drive, for the storage and transfer of larger digital files. A USB card-reader may be useful for transferring images from the camera's memory card to lab computers, especially if your DSLR uses a proprietary memory card. Students should expect to produce their own digital files (some use of internet imagery is allowed) and prints, and, buy their own paper and other materials.

Current charges for digital printing with the Visual Arts Epson digital printer is approximately \$8-10 per SQUARE FOOT. The large-format printer is reserved for Graduate use, however, some exceptions can be made if negotiated in advance. Printing will be available in Cohen Lab for smaller imagery. Cheaper, and faster, printing for small, or medium format, prints can be obtained from: Forest City Image Works, Kinko's, Blacks, Mercury Printers, and even Walmart.

Course requirements:

Each student is responsible to meet the requirements of all project assignments, procedures and due dates. Attendance in all classes is mandatory. Work will not be accepted from students missing 15%, or more, of class time (i.e. approx. 1.5 classes per term) without documented medical or bereavement reason and may be debarred from participating in final studio evaluations and submission. Students who are consistently absent from a portion of a course will be considered absent from the class, and when the 15% limit is reached, they may be similarly disbarred. Class contact hours will be crucial for this course. Be on time! Technical workshops, presentations, critiques, lectures and discussions will happen during class time and will not be repeated.

Class time will be devoted to lectures, tutorials, demonstrations, presentations, critiques and studio work time (worksessions) allotted to the students of this class to occupy the digital lab exclusively for their own purposes to complete assignments. The student is expected to spend an amount of time equivalent to the courses' assigned 3 hour weight working towards meeting course requirements outside of class time.

Students are required to observe all specified mandatory safety protocols governing lab and studio use.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a 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 fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

At the end of the course all work must be removed from lockers and workspaces. The department cannot guarantee the security of any work or materials left unattended after April 15th.

Academic requirements:

At an agreed time during the second term, each student will present a slide lecture on a photography related subject or individual artist.

Over the course of the year, approximately 7-8 photographic projects will be assigned. These projects will consist of a presentation of your completed study in the form of **photo prints**.

One reading will be assigned during the academic year. Choice of text may be fixed or negotiated through class discussion. Students are required to prepare a commentary/review/summary (minimum 750 words) on the reading and participate fully in class discussions of the text.

Failure to attend all classes and complete all assignments by announced deadlines is unacceptable without documented excuse for medical or other legitimate reasons. A one-time, late penalty of 10% shall be applied to all late submissions. Written and studio assignments are due at the commencement of the class for class discussion and critique; late assignments will be considered those assignments handed in on the due date after the class has ended. Extensions, granted for valid reasons, must be negotiated before assignments are due. Late assignments should be submitted to the office of the department of Visual Arts.

All written assignments must be typed and printed out, or submitted through Western's OWL platform. Emails, including email attachments, will not be accepted.

Last day to drop this course without academic penalty is November 30th, 2016. All assignments must be handed in by the last day of classes.

Grading Breakdown:

Slide lecture/presentation	10%
Photographic projects	70%
Reading commentary/review/summary	10%
Quality of class participation/attendance	10%

Photographic assignments constitute the majority of the final grade at 70% of the total. Approximately 7 assignments will be required of the student of this class. Failure to hand in an assignment would obviously result in a substantial loss of potential academic grade. Late penalties shall also apply. Assignments not present at the due date affect the scope of the critique we are able to accomplish as a group; and effectively, the student's work, even if completed late, will not be critiqued at all. The quality of the concept, the level of ambition and execution, the aesthetic success and the technical achievements of the students' projects shall always be considered first and foremost when grading is considered. You will be asked to submit your UNFLATTENED digital files for review on occasion.

The next important component of the academic requirements is the slide presentation. Worth 10% of your total grade, this project represents your research into the kind of photography that is most interesting to you. All kinds of photography are acceptable to study: art-photography, fashion, editorial, conflict photography, product photography, fantasy, even scientific photographs and imaging techniques. A topic and date of presentation is agreed upon, a selection of at least 20 slides are recommended and an accompanying text of approximately 2000 words of research and analysis should constitute the basic framework of your presentation (not handed in). Although the overall structure and tenor of the lecture is the responsibility of the student, it is expected, for the benefit of the class, that you familiarize us with the biography of the artist and cover in some detail the social and historical context of the work's production. Other related topics for discussion/investigation could include: technique and methodology; strategies of address--the museum or the magazine (what are the problems of placement/context?); related works--compare and contrast; historical precedents; politics (if any!); formal characteristics and tendencies within the artists' total production; etc.

Written commentary and/or review for the assigned reading should be handed in to the instructor on the day of the class discussion. In your own words, this should be a brief synopsis, commentary, or criticism of the text with background context for the inquiry. A minimum 700-800 words is recommended for either format.

Lastly, class participation is considered for a 10% portion of your total grade. This means, again, not just the quantity of your participation, but the quality also. Do you participate in the reading or critique discussions? Is it evident that you have contextualized either the reading, or, the photographic works with other source material such as books, photo exhibits, lectures, etc.? Non-preparedness, absenteeism, tardiness and other forms of non-enthusiasm shall be interpreted as non-participation.

Medical Policy on Unfinished Course Work

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 their home Dean's Office and provide documentation. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation.

A student who cannot complete assignments totalling less than 10% for the whole course, due to medical reasons, may speak with the instructor and arrange an extension of no more than two weeks to complete the assignments along with presenting medical documentation.

A student who cannot complete assignments totalling less than 10% for the whole course, not due to medical reasons, will not receive any accommodations or extensions.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities, or students who require accommodation in course requirements or scheduling should talk with the instructor as soon as possible during office hours or by appointment.

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.

Policies and Conduct

I will make every effort to foster a class environment that is comfortable for all students and where students respect all class members. We do not always have to agree with one another, however, it is important that we respect each others' viewpoints. Behavior that is disruptive or discriminatory will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code of Student Conduct and familiarize him or herself with its contents. The Code is available at "<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>" www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf.

Academic Honesty

All course work must be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, visit the Writing Centre, or talk to me before the assignment due dates. **All course work must be completed specifically for this course. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating.** Plagiarism and cheating are the most serious of academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly.

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.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Student Services

There are many organizations and offices on campus designed to assist students with the challenges of university life. Please see the web site for a description of the full array of services:

http://communications.uwo.ca/western/current_studservices.html

THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All cellular telephones must be put away during class time.

Remain focused on your class work during class time. Please do not text, or spend time on social media, in class; wait for your break.

In addition, while laptops are useful classroom tools, specifically for taking notes, using laptops and cellular telephones for personal enjoyment (i.e. Facebook, email, texting) during the class is unacceptable and could negatively affect your participation mark. Furthermore, usage of computers for purposes that are not related directly to class participation during class time (ie. working on other assignments for another class) could also negatively affect your participation mark.

Finally, students are not permitted to record lectures using any electronic recording devices. Lectures are the intellectual property of the professor. Students who require assistance with note-taking should consult the Student Development Centre.

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

Western University 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.

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_19

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/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189 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.

Mental Health:

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Building Access (September 1st to April 30th):

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 reserves 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

June 13, 2018

VISUAL ARTS 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.