

Western University, Department of Visual Arts
AH 2632G Canadian Art
winter 2020



Shuvina Ashoona, *Earth Transformations*, 2012

Class time: Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:20 pm

(this is a blended course with one-hour equivalent online content in addition to weekly class meetings)

Location: NCB 117

Professor Sarah Bassnett

Email – sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca

Office hours – Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 219

Teaching assistants

Adi Berardini - aberard7@uwo.ca

Office hours – Wednesdays 1 – 2 pm in VAC 240

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Office hours – TBA in VAC 240

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the visual arts in Canada with a focus on modern and contemporary art of the 20th century. Taking a thematic and generally chronological approach, we examine important artistic movements, including impressionism, post-impressionism, abstraction, pop and conceptual art, in relation to their social and political context. We also explore aspects of Indigenous art, cultural policy, and museum and gallery collecting practices in Canada. The course provides an important foundation for students planning to work in the arts and culture sector in Canada. This is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the significance of the work of important artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and artistic context in which it was produced
- describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of art works using appropriate terminology
- summarize the main argument of essays on Canadian art and explain your point of view on the issues in writing
- conduct research, and use the sources effectively in a research assignment
- articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments
- participate constructively in online and in-class discussions by sharing ideas and by listening respectfully to the views of others

PREREQUISITE / ANTI-REQUISITE

The anti-requisite is the former VAH 2272F/G or VAH 2276E. The prerequisite is 1.0 from AH 1640 or two of AH 1641A/B-1648A/B, or the former VAH 1040 or two of the former VAH 1041A/B-1045A/B, or 1.0 essay course from Arts and Humanities, FIMS, or Social Science, or permission of the Department. 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 the basis for an appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it without an adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS _____

The book is available at the University Bookstore. Additional readings are posted as PDFs on OWL.

Class preparation: This is a blended course, which means it is essential that you read the assigned texts, watch the videos, and participate in activities before each class. The equivalent of 1 hour of weekly class time is directed to online activities, including contributing to discussions on OWL. In order to read or watch actively and to create a record of your thoughts on the texts, I highly recommend taking notes, which you can then review for the exam. In addition to the online component, the assigned readings will take most students approximately 1-2 hours a week.

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have done the readings in preparation for the day they are listed. Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION 10%

Your attendance will be monitored and will count for a portion of the 10%. The participation portion of your grade will be based your contributions to weekly online and in-class discussions and activities. You are also expected to come to class having read and made notes on the weekly readings. Arriving late to class, leaving early, not completing the required readings, and not participating in discussions and activities will significantly reduce your participation mark.

READING RESPONSE JOURNAL – 15%

Select seven of the assigned chapters from the course text, and write a concise (approximately 250-word) summary of each one, along with a brief analytical comment. The total length of each should be approximately 300-350 words. Your summary should state the main idea of the essay and explain how the author builds an argument to support the main idea. Your comment should articulate your point of view on the issues discussed in the essay. See the assignment sheet posted on OWL for more tips on critical reading. Be sure to indicate the title and author for each of the readings, followed by your summary and comment. Submit one Word document with all responses through the assignments link in OWL.

COLLECTIONS REPORT – 35%

This assignment will take the form of report in the range of 7-8 pages / 1750-2000 words. It asks you to put yourself in the position of Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada (NGC). As curator, you are charged with acquiring one new work for the NGC's Canadian art collection. Using criteria discussed in class, your task is to consider which one of five works would make the most significant contribution to the collection. An assignment sheet and research documents will be posted on OWL. Submit the report through the assignment link in OWL.

The assignment will assess the following learning outcomes: 1) conduct research, and use the sources effectively in a research assignment 2) describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of artworks using appropriate terminology; 3) explain the significance of the work of important artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and artistic context in which it was produced; 4) articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments.

FINAL EXAM 40%

The final exam will be comprised of slide comparisons, short answer and essay questions and will assess the following learning outcomes: 1) explain the significance of the work of important Canadian artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and / or artistic context in which it was produced; and 2) describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of artworks using appropriate terminology.

DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	Due date	Grading
Attendance & participation	Weekly	10%
Reading response journal	Feb. 24 @ 11 pm	15%
Collections report	March 16 @ 11 pm	35%
Final exam	Final exam period TBA	40%

LATE POLICIES

Contact me BEFORE an assignment is due if you require an extension. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% each day, unless you self-report an absence or provide appropriate documentation (a doctor's note, for example).

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

are met. Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.** All course work must be submitted by the last day of classes.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work for the course MUST be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. We will discuss the appropriate citation style in class. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, consult the Chicago Manual of Style guide on OWL Sakai in the Resources section, visit the Writing Centre, or talk to me well 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 very serious academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism includes:

1. Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. Submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement;
4. Knowingly representing as one's own an idea of another.

For information concerning Western's Plagiarism and Academic Offences (Scholastic Offences) policies see:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Pre&ArchiveID=>

All assignments may be subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University of Western Ontario currently uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the Internet, e-journals, e-books, and a range of other scanned material, including other assignments for this course. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

CITATION STYLE

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>

POLICIES & CONDUCT

Attendance is required. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and be prepared for and participate in discussions. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the required readings. Students who miss less than two classes are not required to seek accommodations for their absences. For subsequent absences students will need to seek accommodations according to the Medical Accommodation policy below. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

- Under Western's regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations and/or critiques.
- If a student is consistently absent from a portion of class, they will be considered as exceeding the 15% cut off.
- After three unexcused absences, a student's final grade may be lowered by half a letter grade.

Academic Accommodation: For Western's complete Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities see

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Pre&ArchiveID=>. Please talk to me during the first few weeks of the course if you require accommodation in course requirements or scheduling due to a disability. Please visit the Student Development Centre for assistance with a disability. Students who want to request academic accommodation must register with the Centre, meet with a counselor, and provide appropriate documentation of a disability. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/> for more information.

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 strongly discouraged, especially as this is distracting to others. Students should turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used during tests or examinations.

Code of Conduct: Students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and treat all members of the Western community with respect. See

http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/student_experience/studentconduct.html.

I am committed to fostering a class environment that is comfortable for all students, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds. These core values include using preferred gender pronouns and human-centred language, which convey respect for people's diverse experiences. We do not always have to agree with one another; however, in this class I expect everyone to show respect for other people's viewpoints. Behaviour that is disruptive or discriminatory will not be tolerated.

Absences on Religious Holy Days: For purposes of this policy "the University has approved a list of dates which are recognized religious holidays which require members of those religions to be absent from the University; this list is updated annually and is available at departmental, Deans' and Faculty advising Offices." For Western's Policy on Religious Holidays see

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html .

Students should request permission if they wish to record lectures for study purposes. Lectures are the intellectual property of the professor.

The last day to drop this course without academic penalty is **March 7, 2020**.

RESOURCES

OFFICE HOURS / EMAIL

Please see me during my office hours if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, including readings or assignments. If you would like to talk to me and cannot make it to my office hours, please ask for an appointment or contact me by email. I will make every effort to reply to your email within one to two business days. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities, I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

OWL

The equivalent of 1 hour of weekly class time is directed to online activities such as watching videos and contributing to discussions on OWL. I will post slides from class as PDF files for your review, and the syllabus and a range of other resources will also be available. Assignments will be submitted through OWL. Go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. Use your Western user name and password to sign on. Please be sure to check your browser and make sure everything is working at the beginning of the course. For technical assistance, contact ITS: (519) 661-3800.

STUDENT SERVICES

There are many organizations and offices on campus designed to assist students with the challenges of university. Please see the web site for a description of the full array of services: <http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/>. Learning Skills Services, for example, offers one-on-one assistance with academic issues. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/> for details.

WRITING SUPPORT CENTRE 4100 WSSB

The Writing Support Centre is part of the Effective Writing Program at Western and is open to all registered students. It offers instruction on all aspects of writing and is not merely for students who have difficulty with writing. Most effective are the one-on-one tutoring sessions, where you can work with a tutor on course assignments. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> for details.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health support <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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**The University of Western Ontario
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 <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.

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 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 perimeter doors open at 8am and close at 7pm Monday to Friday. Perimeter doors are locked over the weekend.

After-Hours Access

Students must have their student card to access the building outside regular building hours. Undergraduate Visual Arts students have access to the building from 7pm until 10pm, Monday to Friday and from noon to 5pm Saturday and Sunday by use of student cards at designated card readers outside of Exits 10 and 2. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm Monday to Friday and 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours. Access to studio spaces will vary, depending on staffing. Failure to follow Department policies or abide by the student code of conduct may result in revoking of swipe card access.

Third Floor Access

Please note: All students requiring access to the third floor (first year and fourth year students) will always require their student cards to activate the third floor card readers at the stairwell entrances and for the card reader in the elevator.

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 T. Johnson (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

VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

These guidelines are benchmarks that are 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 in first year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **writing** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding **research**, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The **writing** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding **research**, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The **writing** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding **research**, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)

The **writing** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding **research**, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The **writing** demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding **research**, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The **writing** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding **research**, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The **writing** demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding **research**, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.