

**Western University
Department of Visual Arts**

Course: SA 2643 Introduction to Sculpture and Installation

Term: Fall 2020- Winter 2021

Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:30- 11:30

Location: Synchronous online & sculpture studios VAC 130|130A

Professor: Soheila Kolahdouz Esfahani

email: skolahd@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 (online) or by appointment (online or in-person)

Office: VAC

TA: Rebecca Sutherland; rsuther8@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course introduces students to contemporary processes used in three-dimensional construction. Students will experiment with a variety of new and used materials and construction methods in order to learn how to use the tools in the sculpture studio, as well as basic construction techniques. In addition to technical development, the course will emphasize the exploration of conceptual and critical approaches in contemporary sculpture and installation. This course provides an opportunity for students to experiment with both technical and conceptual aspects of three-dimensional practices through technical lessons/exercises, major projects, readings, presentations, and critiques.

Learning Outcomes

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will develop a familiarity with contemporary sculpture and installation practices, as well as a background of its methods, theoretical motivations and historical influences.

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will gain an understanding of art making methodologies through practical application of process, from “brainstorming”, presenting ideas to creating final projects in various three-dimensional art practices.

Application of Knowledge

Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will demonstrate perceptual, visual and conceptual skills through art making and as a critical viewer and will expand upon their skills to further explore and develop in advanced studio courses.

Assessment

Project 1: Assemblage; due October 19 th	10%
Project 2: Collaborative installation in the Artlab; due November 23 rd	10%
Project 3: Wooden planar sculpture; due December 7 th	15%
Project 4: Text-based conceptual installation; due February 8 th	10%
Project 5: Clay sculpture; due March 1 st	15%
Project 6: Independent project; due March 31 st	15%
Presentation	5%
Portfolio of at-home projects	10%
Participation & Reading Reflections	10%

Grading Scheme

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 waives 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.

Marking Criteria for Each Assignment

Grades will be determined by the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the assignment objectives and requirements
2. Resolution of the finished work (technical, conceptual and presentation-wise)
3. Evidence of research and development, both materially and conceptually (this will be mostly evident from the Sketchbook)
4. Resourcefulness, ambition and originality

Course Requirements

Students will complete six major assignments, a number of smaller technical projects, one presentation over the course of the semester, in addition to participating in in-class/online reading discussions, projects and critiques. There are readings assigned most weeks that are used as jumping off points for our class discussions and generating ideas for the hands on art making projects. These readings are available on OWL. Students must complete all assignments by the start of class (8:30 am) on the listed dates. Late penalty is 5% per day after the due date. Re-submitting of projects is permitted, provided the original project was handed in on time. All re-submitted works must be handed in by the last class in winter term.

Student Responsibilities & Preparations

Students are expected to attend all in-person and online classes punctually and participate in all class discussions and critiques. Students are also required to come to class with the necessary materials for each work session. Failure to meet these expectations will be reflected in their overall participation grade. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves after each work session. Failure to do so will be reflected in their overall participation grade. Students are responsible for following department policy in the installation and take-down of projects. Failure to do so will be factored into your assignment grade. At the end of each semester, students will be required to take home all of their sculpture projects from the storage area. Failure to do so will result in your projects being disposed of by building staff.

Students are expected to work during class times, plus an additional 6 hrs/wk out of class and 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 may not submit a project completed for another course, unless special permission is obtained from both of the instructors involved.

Attendance Policy

As this is a blended online/in-person studio course, attendance both in-class and online is crucial. Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (*15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester*) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments. *Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero).*

In accordance with University policy, students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures, demonstrations and due dates. With fair notice, course assignments, schedule or due dates may change. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of course changes. Failure to attend an important demonstration or lecture without due cause will result in the student researching the information for themselves.

Required Materials

Each student must pay a \$80 materials fee and a \$20 shop fee for this course. The materials fee goes towards the purchasing of some assignment materials (such as wood, clay and window film) and the shop fee is used for restocking the shop with things like screws, nails, glue, etc., available for use by all students. In addition to these fees, students will have to supply additional materials for certain assignments. Students will be expected to come prepared with the specific materials they need to develop their projects. In general, students will also require the following items:

- Sketchbook
- Pencil-Eraser
- Tape Measure-Dust mask
- Safety glasses
- Scissors, utility knife (of decent quality)

Participation

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 (online & in-person) 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. Evaluation of participation will depend on attendance and commitment to class discussions and activities, as well as general respect towards fellow students and the workshop. Students arriving unprepared, unreasonably late, or leaving early, will not be considered as having participated in a class.

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). 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.

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;

For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or

For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;

Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;

The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;

The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;

Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations

Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.

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.

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

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change)

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.

For the 2020-2021 academic year the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be available by card access only for students who have in-person classes in the building.

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.

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

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>
5. Mental Health -- https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Health and Wellness

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Middlesex College does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.

Please contact the Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite (jslauen@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.