

Western University, Department of Visual Arts  
**Photography and Collaboration**  
AH 4650F – Fall 2021

Class time: Mondays, 11:30 - 2:30  
Location: VAC 247

Instructor: Bruno Sinder  
[bsinder@uwo.ca](mailto:bsinder@uwo.ca)  
Office Hours: By appointment in VAC 240

### **Course Description**

This seminar takes a thematic approach to issues and debates concerning collaboration and photography. Throughout the course, we discuss ideas by key theorists, look at projects or groups of photographs from artists and vernacular sources and tackle the social and economic ramifications of contemporary photography practices, navigating topics from social media to labour relations in dialogical art projects. We take an extended approach to photography, discussing not only images themselves, but also the contexts of production, circulation, and consumption of photographs. This seminar introduces students to key debates in photography studies and prepares and supports them in the creation and execution of their own research project in the field.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

- Understand and discuss different understandings of authorship and collaboration in art;
- Summarize and comment on scholarly articles and artistic projects in the field, both in writing and orally;
- Plan and develop a small scale photography project while articulating how it relates to scholarly writings in the field;
- Conduct research using library resources, such as books and journal articles in databases, and use the sources effectively to support your analysis of selected photography projects.

## Course Requirements

*All required readings, as well as any optional supplementary material, are available on OWL in the resources folder.*

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have reviewed the materials 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 and Participation - 10% (weekly)

Attendance and participation in class will be monitored and make up 10% of your grade. As this is a discussion-based seminar course, it's essential that you come to class having reviewed and made notes on the assigned materials. Arriving late to class, leaving early, not completing the required readings, and not participating in discussions and activities will significantly reduce your participation mark.

- Weekly Reading Responses - 10% (weekly - due each Sunday at 11:59pm on OWL)

For each week with an assigned reading, write a brief (100-300 word) response on the OWL forum for that week. The responses should comment on the assigned material rather than simply summarizing it. Highlighting points of confusion, articulating questions, voicing disagreements or commenting on specific passages are all valid and welcome responses. This assignment is meant to further your interaction with the assigned material and provide a base for our in-class discussions, so it must be completed before the week's class.

- Creative Project Presentation - 15% (November 1)

A short presentation (approximately 10 minutes) on your proposed or in-development creative project. Students are *not* expected to have completed the project at this stage, but should have an idea and a rough plan for how the idea will be executed. The presentation is an opportunity to discuss ideas and methods and work through expected or encountered problems as a group.

- Creative Project - 20% (November 15)

Students will develop a creative project that reflects on and discusses the different roles collaboration can play in photographic production, circulation, and consumption. The outcome of the project could take many forms, such as a photography-based social media profile or a collection of images. By November 15th, students should submit on OWL both the images produced (or a link, if online) and a 200-400 word written document. This accompanying text should briefly describe the project and relate it to materials and topics discussed in class. The written document and the visual outcome are worth 10% each, adding up to 20%.

This assignment can be completed in pairs, if students so desire and can collaborate safely and in accordance with health regulations and recommendations at the time. The assignment will be further explained and discussed in class on October 18th.

- Research Presentation - 20% (December 7)

For your research presentation (15-20 minutes), you should present your selected artistic project or group of photographs and the sources you plan on using and outline your theoretical approach. Similarly to the creative project presentation, students are not expected to have completed their essays at this stage. You should, however, have done enough research to assess the suitability and feasibility of your research project and prepare questions and points of discussion so that we can comment on your project as a group, offering suggestions and working through problems.

- Research Essay - 25% (December 14)

For your research essay, select one artistic project or group of photographs and discuss it through the lens of the theories discussed in the course. In addition to any material introduced in the course, your essay must use additional scholarly sources gathered from your research on the topic. The essay should be 1000 to 1500 words and include footnotes and a bibliography of all sources used. Submit on OWL until December 14th.

## **Grading**

- Attendance and Participation - 10% (weekly)
- Weekly Reading Responses - 10% (weekly)
- Creative Project Presentation - 15% (November 1)
- Creative Project - 20% (November 15)
- Research Presentation - 20% (December 7)
- Research Essay - 25% (December 14)

## **Late Policies**

Extensions, granted for valid reasons, must be negotiated BEFORE assignments are due. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% each day, unless appropriate documentation (a doctor's note, for example) is provided. 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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or the department. Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totaling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, should be discussed with the instructor. In order to have a request considered, students must contact the instructor no later than the day after the assignment is due or attendance is missed. All course work must be submitted by the last day of classes, which is December 14, 2021.

## 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:*

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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:*

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

- c. 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;
- d. 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;
- e. 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
- f. 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;
- g. 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](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.

**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?](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169)

[PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_169](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169)

### **Electronic Devices**

**During Exams:** *Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during any tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.*

**During Lectures and Tutorials:** *Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.***

### **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/](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](http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf).*

*Please contact the Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite ([jslauen@uwo.ca](mailto: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.*

## VISUAL ARTS ART HISTORY/MUSEUM AND CURATORIAL STUDIES GRADE DESCRIPTORS

**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 of 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.