

Western University, Department of Visual Art

SA 2620B – Introduction to Painting

Professor:	Sky Glabush	Time:	Tue - Thur: 11:30-2:30
Course:	VAS 2620B	Office Hours:	Mon. 12:30-1:30
Section:	002	Email:	sglabush@uwo.ca
Location:	Rm 230	Phone:	661-2111 ext. 86845

Course Description

VAS 2620 will explore the expressive and creative potential of the language of painting. Students will be exposed to a variety of materials and working methods and engage in experimentation with the physical and critical processes of producing two-dimensional art. As an introductory course, emphasis will be given to perceptual development. As the term proceeds critical issues will be integrated into the projects. The course materials will be shared online, through instructor presentations, group critiques and discussions, technical demonstrations, assigned readings, and studio projects.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate technical, analytical, and critical awareness of a wide range of material and conceptual problems specific to the visual arts
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of historical and contemporary issues relevant to the development and evaluation of a visual arts practice specifically within the fields of drawing and painting
- Demonstrate technical and analytical competence necessary for continued development within the program

Course Requirements

Assigned Readings:

The course may include readings, followed by student and instructor led discussions and presentations designed to foster a working knowledge of the field of contemporary painting. Assigned readings will be made available through OWL.

Participation and Attendance:

Due to the physical nature of painting and drawing, there will be a lot of in-class work. Students should be prepared, however, to spend a minimum of one hour working outside of class for every hour of class time. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to show up to every class, on time, and with the appropriate material and must clean up after themselves at the end of each class. Missing more than 15% of classes (including late arrival and early departure) without prior consultation with the instructor may result in a failing grade. Students that miss class for medical reasons must present documented medical or bereavement excuses vetted through their academic advisor.

Students are expected to complete all assignments on the due date for critiques. Failure

to complete assignments without prior consultation with instructor may result in a failing grade. Failure to hand in assignments in a professional, organized manner may result in instructor declining to grade portfolio.

It is expected that students take notes on all lectures, presentations, and class discussions. A sketchbook or journal should be brought to each class along and the Course Outline.

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.

Mental Health Policy:

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.

Evaluation and Critiques:

As an instructor I will attempt to provide an environment of respect and security in which students will be encouraged to engage in a wide latitude of experimentation. In this environment of mutual respect there will be regular critiques of student projects in which **participation is mandatory**. Participation will be evaluated and constitute a portion of the final grade. Grades for this course are based upon the submission of class assignments and failure to submit projects will result in the subsequent loss of their respective percentage of the final grade.

Evaluation:

Studio Assignments*	80 %
Participation in discussions and critiques	10%
Attendance, punctuality, conduct and professionalism	10%

*Studio assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- innovation and originality;
- technical proficiency and creative use of materials;
- demonstration of a clear understanding of the goals of the assignment; and
- presentation, organization, and clarity of intent.

Students may contact the instructor for additional assistance or critique of work, either in class, during office hours, or by appointment.

Grading: Based on the student's success in meeting the above requirements, grades will be assessed according to the following standard:

A+ 90 - 100%	Outstanding - 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.
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	The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.
A 80 - 89%	Excellent - 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.
B+ 75 – 79%	Very Good - 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.
B 70 - 74%	Good - 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.
C 60 – 69%	Competent - 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.
D 50 – 59%	Marginal - 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.
F below 50%	Unacceptable - 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.

*It is important to note that it is the student's responsibility to ensure successful completion of all course prerequisites and that he or she has not taken an antithetical course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as the basis of appeal. If not eligible for a course the student may be removed from it at any time and will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Supplies:

(Please note that the material list is a rough guide and that students may be required to purchase further materials).

Drawing Supplies:

- Sketchbook
- bulldog clips
- drawing board 24" x 30"
- 24" X 30" pad of watercolour paper
- 20 sheets of Mayfair cover or cartridge paper
- Newsprint pads 22" x 28"
- Full range of graphite pencils from 2H to 8B
- Conte (red, white, black, and umber including soft and hard), charcoal including vine, compressed, and willow
- Bottle of Chinese or Indian Ink
- Sharp knife (either X-acto or Olfa with replaceable blades)
- Gum eraser and kneadable eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Scissors
- acrylic gel (use Golden soft matte if possible)

Acrylic Paint: (feel free to add to these if you already have paint, but these colours are essential)

- cadmium red
- cadmium yellow
- raw umber
- cobalt blue
- sap green
- titanium white
- mars or bone black
- gesso

Brushes:

- #1, #2, #6, #8 round bristle
- #2, #4, #8 bright bristle
- an assortment of cheap house painting brushes including a flat 2-inch

Supports and Other:

- canvas (to be discussed)
- masking tape (variety of sizes)
- large container (for holding water to clean brushes)
- wood for building canvas supports (or "stretchers") to be discussed
- bar of laundry soap and or dishwashing detergent
- paper towels or rags

*(Please note that certain materials will be discussed in class and are not included on Supplies list).

Further Information

Prerequisite Checking:

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.

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

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

Additional Course Material Request Policy

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor’s discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western’s Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Academic Consideration:

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other

reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Attendance:

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)

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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.**

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.

Support Services:

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

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

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.

Western University - Department of Visual Arts

Safety and Maintenance Sheet Painting Studio, Room 230

Visual Arts Centre (VAC) Building Guidelines

In order to ensure a safe and healthy work environment for our campus community, your experience in the Visual Arts Centre will be different than in previous years. All decisions surrounding our policies for the Fall 2021 term have been made in line with the current University and Health Unit directives. They may change as the COVID-19 situation evolves. The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority; **it is a shared responsibility and we all play a critical role.** In addition to the guidelines outlined by the University on the Health and Safety website, the directives below apply to the Visual Arts Centre to ensure a safe year for all.

University Health and Safety Measures

- The Department of Visual Arts will be adhering to all directives outlined by Western University and the MLHU. These include:
 - requiring a non-medical, 3-layer face mask in all indoor spaces
 - completing the daily return to campus questionnaire
 - practicing physical distancing (6ft) (when possible)
 - frequent handwashing
 - staying home if feeling unwell
- Up-to-date guidelines can be found at: <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety.html>

Building Safety Measures

- **Food and Drink:** are not permitted in the Visual Arts Centre, please consume your meals at your home or in designated campus eateries.
- **Clean-in, Clean-out:** students will be provided with spray disinfectant, and disinfectant wipes for shared tools and surfaces. Any shared equipment must be sanitized by the user **before and after** each use.

Faculty Responsibilities:

- Inform students about safe health and safety policies, safe use of toxic materials and solvent storage and ensure that students are following safe procedures. In case of an emergency, call 911.
- When using solvents, open the porthole windows, turn on the fan in the spray booth and **close** the spray booth door.
- The fan in room 230C should also be turned on. See the Program Assistant in the Main Office for the key to room 230C, in case it is locked.
- If a solvent spill occurs, pour sawdust from the container in the spray booth onto the spill to absorb it. Notify the Program Assistant who will ask the maintenance staff person to sweep it up when he does the regular cleaning.
- At the end of each class, return props and drapes to the model closet.
- At the end of each class, return space heaters and skeleton to room 206A.
- In the case of evening classes, equipment may be stored in your office and returned the next day.

- Notify the Program Assistant of any burnt-out bulbs, broken or missing furniture, broken window blinds, etc.
- Inform students about general cleanup, storage of work in progress, and removal of completed marked work.
- Supervise students' adherence to the maintenance requirements listed below, under the heading "Student Responsibilities".

Student Responsibilities:

- Non-medical, 3-layer face masks are **required at all times** in the Visual Arts Centre.
- When using paint, the primary dangers involve the accidental ingestion of pigments and the inhalation of fumes from solvents such as turpentine and mineral spirits. Skin contact with these solvents is also a problem. Some pigments are more hazardous than others. Take special care with cadmium colours, cobalt colours, manganese colours, zinc white, flake white, cerulean blue, vermilion red, burnt and raw umber.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke or vape while painting since these activities may lead to accidental ingestion of paint.
- Use aerosol fixative only in the spray booth or outdoors. Fine mists from these sprays can penetrate deep into the lungs.
- All flammable chemicals, sprays and solvents must be stored in the flammable cabinet, not in your locker.
- Do not pour solvents down the sink. Dispose of used solvents in the metal container in the spray booth. Never leave open solvent containers in the studio.
- Throw used jars and other containers, and dirty rags and paper towels, into the garbage containers.
- At the end of each class, remove work-in-progress from easels and store these works in the painting racks.
- **Take home all completed graded work.**
- Wash your hands thoroughly when you are finished working. Use a good hand cream after washing with soap, in order to prevent damage to your skin's natural defensive barrier.

Please note: According to University regulations guiding "Laboratory Use," students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grades sent to the Registrar.