



# Western Arts&Humanities

Visual Arts Department

## SA 2620A — Introduction to Painting (Fall 2022)

Professor: Sheri Osden Nault (they/them)      Office Hours: Weds: 12:30-1:30\*  
Time: Tue - Thur: 11:30-2:30      Office: VAC - 213  
Location: VAC - Rm 230      Email: snault4@uwo.ca

\*Other office hours by request. Meetings may be in person or over zoom.

### Calendar Description

Introduction to painting practice, with a focus on developing critical understandings in concert with techniques. Projects address theoretical, historical, and contemporary approaches to painting, and integrate these with studio practice.

### Expanded Description

SA 2620A (Fall) will explore the expressive and creative potential of contemporary painting practices through the consideration of materials, methods, and theoretical concerns. Projects will require students to engage in experimentation with the processes and critical contexts of painting and visual arts. Course materials will be shared online, through instructor presentations, group critiques and discussions, technical demonstrations, assigned readings, and studio projects.

### Learning Outcomes / Objectives

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

- Make informed material choices regarding paint and pigment, personal aesthetic development, and studio safety
- Demonstrate technical, analytical, and critical awareness of a range of material and conceptual problems in the context of painting and visual arts
- Contextualize their own and others' work in relation to contemporary and historic painting and studio practices
- Address and constructively discuss classmates' work, contributing to a cooperative in-class community
- Address personal work in both oral and written formats

### Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

• Project 1	15 %
• Project 2	15 %
• Project 3	15 %
• Project 4	25 %
• Written Reflections	5 %
• Sketchbook/ Research	10 %
• Participation and Community	15 %

### Grading criteria:

- Conceptual Awareness: Ability to critically consider meaning-making within the project's framework
- Technical Merit: technique, presentation, and composition within the project's framework
- Ambition, experimentation, and resourcefulness in problem-solving

- Overall success: how the technical and thematic requirements of the project have been met or exceeded; presentation, resolution

### **Course Requirements**

Students will complete 4 projects over the course of the term, submit 2 short written reflections, and participate during in-class discussions and critiques. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours/week on assignments outside of class time. Assignments are expected to be completed by the start of class on the day they are due.

### **Research Materials and Independent Research:**

This course will incorporate research materials, discussion prompts, and lectures which will further develop students' working knowledge of contemporary painting and studio art practices. Digital materials will be made available through the course's OWL site. Additionally, students will be expected to spend time each week independently researching painting, painters, and relevant concepts to support the development of their assignments and creative practice.

### **Participation and Community (15%)**

Reflects a student's attendance, preparedness, contributions, and respect for others during work periods, critiques, lectures, and discussions. In order to receive these grades, students must actively take part in critiques, work periods, and in-class discussions. Asking questions, sharing insights, and overall participation is crucial to the learning objectives of the course as well as personal development.

I understand that speaking up in class poses varied challenges for individuals, and these grades are also based upon and affected by

- demonstrated engagement in class material
- sharing questions and information through OWL platform, emails, and asking questions one on one
- bringing work, research, and examples to class
- asking questions and sharing insights in response to lectures and research materials in class or on OWL site
- peer to peer engagement in class, such as sharing insights, ideas, reflections, or otherwise supporting one another to better understand and respond to course materials and project requirements

### **Late Assignment Policy**

#### **Critique**

Students are expected to finish work by assigned due dates **HOWEVER** if work is incomplete at time of critique, in-progress work should still be brought to class and presented for discussion. Critique discussions are an integral part of the learning you will do in this course and are opportunities that should be taken advantage of.

**Incomplete assignments** will be accepted with **5%** of the project grade subtracted for each class session in which the completed work is not presented to the instructor. Extensions may be given at instructor discretion for extenuating circumstances, reach out to your instructor if an issue arises.

For medical exemption on assignments worth over 10% of final grade, students must refer to UWO policies under the heading of Academic Consideration below.

**Important Sessional Dates**

Classes begin: Sept. 8, 2022

Fall Reading Week: Oct. 31 – Nov. 6, 2022

Last day to drop a first-term full or half course without academic penalty: Nov. 12, 2022

Last day to drop a full or full-year half course without academic penalty: Nov. 30, 2022

Classes end: Dec. 8, 2022

## Course Materials/ Supplies

(Please note that the material list is a rough guide and that students may be required to purchase further materials, close approximate sizes of papers are acceptable)

### Basic Supplies:

- Sketchbook
- bulldog clips
- drawing board 24" x 30"
- watercolour paper 24" X 30"
- Newsprint pad 22" x 28"
- Graphite pencils HB, 2B
- Charcoal pencil and compressed or vine charcoal
- Sharp knife (either X-acto or Olfa with replaceable blades)
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Erasers: white rubber and others you may want to use
- Masking tape 1-1.5 inches wide
- bar of laundry soap or dish soap
- rags or paper towels
- large container (for holding water to clean brushes)

### Watercolor Paint:

- 9+ color palette of decent quality eg. Beam Paints "Spectrum 11" set or a Koi Watercolor 12 color palette
- If you already have watercolor paints, ensure you have both warm and cool tone primary colors in your kit and acquire these if needed (speak to me if unclear)

Acrylic Paint: (these colors or close alternatives are essential, speak to me if you want to substitute similar paints)

- cadmium red
- cadmium yellow
- raw umber
- cobalt blue
- sap green
- titanium white
- mars or bone black
- gesso
- acrylic gel (use Golden soft matte if possible)

### Brushes:

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

Supports and Other: (will be discussed in class)

- canvas (to be discussed)
- wood for building canvas supports (or "stretchers") to be discussed
- begin collecting collage, fibre, or other materials for 'mixed-media' in Project 3
- students will be given the opportunity to integrate other types of painting materials at their own and instructor discretion
- students may wish to use safety supplies such as gloves for certain materials

## OWL

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be made available to all students in the class.

All digital course materials will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## Technical Requirements

Students should have technology such as a computer and smart phone sufficient to access OWL site for class and to document art work submit for critique

## University and Department Policies

### Prerequisite Checking:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an an=quisite 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 =me, 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 aGribu=ng them as one’s own,” will not be tolerated. (Cita=on excerpted from Black’s Law Dic=onary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This includes presen=ng the visual or aural work of another creator as your own. Visual or Aural Plagiarism may involve both hand-based media such as drawing, pain=ng, 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 submiGed 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/iden=fied whether in print or orally. Failure to do so will lead to similar academic penal=es as those iden=fied 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 regula=ons. 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.  
[hGps://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)

### Academic Sanc8ons:

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tui=on 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 unless such 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](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:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse

practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility.

#### **Absence:**

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 scholarly 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 LabaG 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 LabaG 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 LabaG 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 LabaG Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John LabaG 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 <http://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](http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf).

Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston ([meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca](mailto:meghan.edmiston@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 STUDIO GRADE DESCRIPTORS:

**90-100 (Outstanding, A+)** - The studio work shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

**80-89 (Excellent, A)** - The studio work shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

**75-79 (Very Good, B+)** - The studio work shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of

techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

**70-74 (Good, B)** - The studio work shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

**60-69 (Competent, C)** - The studio work demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

**50-59 (Marginal, D)** - The studio work shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

**Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)** - The studio work demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable

## Western University - Department of Visual Arts

### Safety and Maintenance Sheet Painting Studio, Room 230

#### Visual Arts Centre (VAC) COVID-19 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 are being 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. Up-to-date health and safety 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.**