



Western Arts&Humanities

Visual Arts Department

SA 2663 — Introduction to Time-Based Media Art (2022-2023)

Professor:	Sheri Osden Nault (they/them)	Office Hours:	Weds: 12:30-1:30*
Time:	Weds: 2:30-5:30	Office:	VAC - 213
Location:	VAC - Rm 134	Email:	snault4@uwo.ca

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

Media Lab Technician:	Eeva Siivonen	Email:	esiivone@uwo.ca
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Calendar Description

A studio course introducing the technical foundations of contemporary media production, including digital imagery, distributed on-line work, sound recording and mixing, as well as basic video camerawork and editing. This lecture/studio course also locates contemporary digital practices within the broader history of cultural production, tracing developments in technology and media arts.

Learning Outcomes / Objectives

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

- Demonstrate technical, analytical, and critical awareness of a range of time-based and media processes, and related conceptual problems
- Demonstrate familiarity with a range of contemporary art practices and artists utilizing time-based media
- Contextualize their own and others' work in relation to contemporary and historic media art practices
- Weigh the pros, cons, and potential offered by both in-person and digital art exhibitions
- 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:

• Observational Assignments (x4)	10 %
• Sound Project	10 %
• Video Project	10 %
• Fall Final Project	15 %
• Performance Project	10 %
• Website Project	10 %
• Final Time-Based Media Project	20 %
• Participation and Community	15 %

Grading criteria:

- Conceptual Awareness: Ability to critically consider meaning-making within the project's framework
- Technical Merit: demonstrated technical understanding 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 observational assignments supporting course themes and projects, 4 projects related to specific technical learning covered in demos and lectures, a final project for the fall term, and a final course project, as well as participate during in-class discussions and critiques. The group will collaborate on the creation of an audio-video installation in the Art Lab Gallery at the mid-point of the course (beginning of January). The exhibition will be a collaborative learning experience and inform further course topics.

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 time-based media art practices considered in class. Digital materials will be made available through the course's OWL site.

Additionally, students will be expected to spend time each week independently researching artists, media art processes, 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 projects will be accepted with **10%** 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.

Observational assignments receive grades for completion, and will not receive grades if not submit.

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

No classes between Dec. 9, 2022 and Jan. 9th, 2023

Spring Reading Week: Feb. 18 - 26, 2023

Classes End: Apr. 10, 2023

Course Materials/ Supplies

- Sketchbook, pencils, erasers, and drawing pens for notes and project planning
- A smart phone with audio, image, and video capture capabilities for in class activities and as an optional tool for course projects
- External storage device: external HD (mac compatible) or USB 3 flash drive (min. 16 GB) to back up your work
- A pair of headphones (over-ear style is best) is useful for audio editing as the Media Lab is a shared workspace
- Active Western U e-mail address (communications and resources outside of class will utilize OWL and UWO e-mail)

Additional info

- Students will be able to do course work in the Media Lab during lab hours without acquiring program software or computer hardware; however, if students wish to work outside of the lab, they will find these tools necessary
- SD / SDHC/ or SDXC memory card is beneficial but not required
- DSLR camera, zoom mic or other microphones, and similar tools can be used to support course work if you have them - these tools are also available through the ArtsGear equipment sign-out

OWL

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

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.

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=erequisite 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 prohibi=ons shall be in force un=l such =me as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the sa=sfac=on of the University. [hGp://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanc=ons&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanc=ons&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169)

Addi8onal Course Material Request Policy

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor’s discre=on. Requests for addi=onal material can only be made in cases necessita=ng academic accommoda=on. If a student requires Academic Accommoda=on for the course material, they can contact Western’s Academic Support & Engagement department. [hGp://academicsupport.uwo.ca/](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/)

Academic Considera8on:

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.

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.

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 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 <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 Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (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