

Western University, Department of Visual Art

9521A/9621A and SA 4690A Graduate Studio Elective  
Fall 2022

Professor:	Sky Glabush	Time:	Thursday: 10:30- 1:30
Course:	VISARTS 9521A/9621A and SA 4690A	Office Hours	Mondays: 12:00 - 1:00
Location:	VAC 249	Email:	sglabush@uwo.ca
		Phone:	661-2111 ext. 86845

**Inside/Outside: Examining the studio as site of material, intuitive and critical exploration**

Course Description

The idea of the studio conjures up images of the lone artist in a garret suffering for their creation. Critics like Rosalind Kraus have long since destabilized this idea and questioned the materially specific language of painting and sculpture in favour of broader definitions characterized by the “expanded field.” But recently many artists are returning to notions of the studio and materially specific languages in favour of an approach that embraces the *métier* of the studio, the history of art and reimagining and revisioning traditions.

The purpose of this seminar will be to define and explore each student’s relationship to their studio practise by closely examining their own processes but also engaging in a dialogue with professional artists through site visits, studio visits lectures and seminars. This course will alternate between seminars designed by the students and conducted inside the department with travelling outside the university and engaging with artists, curators, and others in the field. During our field work and discussions engendered in the studio, this course will provide a weekly forum of engagement with the ongoing material production and research of MFA students. The course will be structured around seminars of each student’s artistic production and a close analysis of ideas related to contemporary art.

Course Requirements

This course presupposes each individual’s vigorous and ongoing engagement with a studio practice and with the activities of the MFA community as a whole. All scheduled due dates must be respected. The principle requirements of the class are as follows:

### Seminar Facilitation

During the first class students will be asked to envision: “what is a studio practice?” In this mapping exercise we will collaborate and explore the different expectations, ideas, theories, experiences, problems, possibilities, and attitudes about pursuing a studio practice and specifically what this means within the framework of an MFA. Each student will look at their practice from the perspective of what is driving it. Whether critical, political, aesthetic, intuitive, what are the aspects of one’s practice that can be shared, communicated, and explored within a seminar with an aim to collaborate, inspire and enrich each participant’s understanding of visual art and their place within it. For the “inside” portion of the course each of one you will take the helm and direct the course for that week. Every other week I will conduct and facilitate the focus of the seminar with sessions that happen “OUTSIDE” wherein we may leave the department and visit studios, galleries, museums, and other locations to explore the ideas experientially in the community.

Each student will be required to keep a detailed record of these activities which will be submitted with the dossier.

### Peer Critiques and or Seminar Discussion

During the student-lead seminar, the student will be responsible for the direction and focus of that seminar. Each person will be asked to speak to their practise from the perspective of what motivates it, what inspires you, what are you reading, looking at, engaged with? you. Each student will share with the seminar ideas about other artists, writing, cinema, poetry, political discourse, or any number of things that drive the work. This exploration is not meant to be exhaustive but rather a free-form space in which to share with the group the things that really support your creative and intellectual endeavours. Part of the seminar can be devoted to looking at the current body of work each student is making, while the rest of the time can be used to share ideas. Experimentation is encouraged.

### Dossier/Blog

At the end of the course, students will have posted reflections, insights, and a record of the development of their work to our grad seminar blog. More details of this will be given in the seminar.

In addition to formal critiques the course will allow for informal peer discussion of prospective projects or emerging work in progress. These discussions may be arranged to take place individually with the instructor or with the class.

### Evaluation and Grading Breakdown

<u>Studio work</u> : including work presented in peer, formal critiques and studio discussions	70%
<u>Seminar Facilitation</u> : each student will lead a seminar discussion and design the format of the seminar for one class	10%
<u>Participation</u> : presentation and critique discussions, attendance, professionalism	10%

<u>Dossier</u> : reflections from field work, crits, studio visits and research posted to grad seminar online forum	10%
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Studio Work (weighted 60% of the course total)

Seminar Facilitation (weighted 10%)

The design, synthesis and creation of a grad seminar. The first project will be to synthesize these ideas and to draft a grad seminar in which each of one you will take the helm and direct the course for that week. The student will experiment with inherited models and encourage a robust and engaged involvement with the seminar. Should a student wish to operate within the traditional parameters of a critique this too is fine. In this case, your ability to lead discussion, facilitate dialogue and encourage critical engagement will be assessed.

Performance and Participation (weighted 10%)

In addition to the evaluation of studio work in context of the critiques, assessment of individual course performance and participation will be based on an assessment of ongoing productivity throughout the semester and ongoing engagement in discussion in critiques, seminars and related materials and readings.

Dossier (weighted 10%)

The dossier is a record of the ideas engaged with during the course of the seminar and will record of studio visits and trips. It will be assessed on the level of cogency and insight brought to bear on the relationship between the differing approaches and ideas encountered in the seminar and the correlation of these ideas to the student's own practice.

Participation and Attendance:

Students should be prepared 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 hand in assignments in a professional, organized manner may result in instructor declining to grade portfolio. Each student is responsible for knowing the assignments, procedures, and due dates. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date; failure to do so may result in a failing grade (F). Requests for deadline extensions cannot be considered unless approved by the instructor at least 24 hours

before the assignment is due and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Attendance is mandatory and missing 15% or more of class time can result in a failing grade.

Course Materials:

All course material will be generated through student-led discussions, field work, and instructor suggestions. Since part of the seminar is designing and facilitating seminar discussions and critiques, each student will propose particular readings and or other supplementary materials.

Statement on Academic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Department of Visual Arts.

Health/Wellness Services:

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

Accessible Education Western (AEW):

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

## **Visual Arts Department Policies**

### **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](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](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.

### **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](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.

