

Western University, Department of Visual Art

VISARTS 9540A/9543A Fri. 9:30-12:30

Professor:	Sky Glabush	Time:	Friday: 9:30-12:30
Course:	VISARTS 9540A/9543A	Office Hours	Mondays: 12:00 - 1:00
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Course Description

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 lively discussions engendered in the studio, this course will provide a weekly forum for a critical engagement with the ongoing material production and research of MFA students. The course will be structured around seminars of student thesis-related research and a close analysis of artworks and ideas related to contemporary art. Over the term the dialogue fostered by the seminar will be complemented by both formal critiques and less formal studio discussions. Critiques will be directed to sustain discussion and debate concerning students' developing material, conceptual and theoretical engagements.

Students are required to schedule individual or class meetings with the instructor to discuss the development of their studio work. All students will also be expected to arrange studio visits with Visiting Artists, Faculty and other individuals.

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:

Grad Seminar Facilitation

During the first class students will be asked to envision: "what is a grad seminar?" In this mapping exercise we will collaborate and explore the different expectations, ideas, theories, experiences, problems, possibilities, and attitudes about what is the purpose of studying art at the graduate level. 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. This portion of the course is entitled "INSIDE." Every other week I will conduct and facilitate the focus of the seminar with sessions that happen "OUTSIDE" wherein we will 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 seminar that a student is designing, he or she may wish to conduct a relatively traditional critique. The student, may wish, however, to experiment with this model and to

conduct an alternative discussion/exploration of ideas related to his or her work. Experimentation is encouraged. There will be a wide latitude of possibility within the framework of a traditional critique. Each student will submit a proposal by January 16, 2015 at which time we will draft the timeline for seminar discussions and for travelling.

Dossier/Blog

In addition to ongoing critical consultations with the advisor, each MFA student is expected to independently arrange for a minimum of three studio meetings with faculty members or visitors from outside the course proper. At least one visit from a department studio faculty member other than the student's advisor or mentor must be arranged before mid-term. 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.

Public Critiques will be scheduled for all MFA students in the week following the end of classes. The student's mentor/advisor and all Graduate Studio faculty members will be present and engaged in assessing students' works in these 30 minute sessions.

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 as a whole.

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%

Studio Work (weighted 60% of the course total)

Studio Work (weighted 60%)

Peer Critiques/ Research Discussions (30%)

Students presenting work for the peer critiques will be assessed on the ambition and level of development demonstrated in the work. A portion of the mark for this critique will be based on the student's ability to orally articulate their ideas and readily engage in critical discussion.

The course instructor will evaluate the peer critiques in consultation with the individual's advisor.

Public Critique Grade Breakdown (30%)

Department graduate faculty members attending the formal studio critique in December will submit to the course instructor recommended grades for the student. The critique grade will be determined by averaging the recommended grade of the Committee, the Advisor and the Instructor. This averaged grade will count for 35% of the total grade for the course.

Grad 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 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 15%)

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 15%)

The dossier will be evaluated on the basis of the rigor and clarity in the synopsis of critique discussions. It will also be a 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.

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

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.

VAS 9544B Studio Seminar Fall 2021

September 10	Introduction and discussion "what is a grad seminar?"
September 17	Outside: instructor led field work
September 24	Inside: Student led discussion
October 1	Outside: instructor led field work
October 8	Inside: Student led discussion
October 15	Outside: instructor led field work
October 22	Inside: Student led discussion
October 29	Outside: instructor led field work
November 5	Reading Week
November 12	Inside: Student led discussion
November 19	Outside: instructor led field work
November 26	Inside: Student led discussion
December 3	Last Class