

Western University
Department of Visual Arts

VISARTS 9541/9544B: Graduate Studio Seminar

Term/Session	Winter 2022
Time	Fridays 2:30-5:30pm
Location	VAC 247 (unless otherwise notified)
Professor	Christof Migone, cmigone@uwo.ca
Office Hours (on ZOOM)	Thursdays 10-12pm, or by appointment: https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/99219946673

What the beyond of teaching is really about is not finishing oneself, not passing, not completing; it's about allowing subjectivity to be unlawfully overcome by others, a radical passion and passivity such that one becomes unfit for subjection, because one does not possess the kind of agency that can hold the regulatory forces of subjecthood, and one cannot initiate the auto-interpellative torque that biopower subjection requires and rewards.

- Stefano Harney & Fred Moten

Make no mistake, I only achieve simplicity with enormous effort.

- Clarice Lispector

The act of refusing to put down words, or crossing out words already down, while you concentrate on the vision you are writing about, makes new words come. What's more, when you refuse language your mind offers up, something happens to the next batch offered. The words are not the same ones that would have come if you hadn't doubted.

- Samuel R. Delany

Improve your films not by adding more equipment and personnel but by using what you have to its fullest capacity. The most important part of your equipment is yourself: your mobile body, your imaginative mind, and your freedom to use both. Make sure you do use them.

- Maya Deren

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for MFA students to participate in an exchange dedicated to the research and development of their studio practice. Students will be asked to participate by contributing to informal studio reviews that will be scheduled throughout the term. These group meetings may review work-in-progress; address ongoing technical concerns; assist with immediate needs of a project's concept and execution; develop an appropriate language for evaluation and critique; and involve discussion on related issues. Students will be required to present their work for critique at the end of the year.

Learning Outcomes:

Learning, How Come?

Course Materials:

A computer with internet access. Materials specific to each student's studio practice.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Class Participation and Attendance	20%
Dossier: Writing/Documentation/Presentation/Website/Etc.	20%
Studio (mid)	20%
Studio (final)	40%

Class Participation and Attendance

- Assessed quantitatively (1% per class) and qualitatively (the remaining 8%).

Writing/Documentation/Presentation/Website/Etc.

- The presentation of research done in parallel to the studio practice. The format is open. It could be a 30 minute in-class presentation, a website, a writing workshop, etc. You are welcome to discuss format ideas with me. Unless otherwise arranged the default will be four components, each worth 5%: 1) Website, 2) Presentation, 3) Journal (tracking studio visits and crits), 4) Dossier assembling all of the above plus a 1-2 page intro. Submit as PDF.

Studio (mid)

- Crits during the semester leading up to the final crits will be graded solely by the instructor.

Studio (final)

- Department graduate faculty members attending the formal studio critique at the end of the term 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 40% of the total grade for the course (1/3 the Instructor, 1/3 the Advisor, and 1/3 an average of other faculty in attendance comprise the grade for the final critique).

STUDIO ART GRADING RUBRIC

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.

DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS AND POLICIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student’s home program.

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.