



**Arts and Humanities 3391F/Visual Arts History 3390F**

Fall 2016

**Celestial Architecture: Artistic Renderings of the Night Sky**

Tuesdays, 10:30-13:30

VAC, rm. 249

**Professor John Hatch**

Office: VAC 200C

Hours: Tuesdays, 13:30-14:30, or by appointment

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**Prerequisite:** AH 2200E, 2220F/G, 2230F/G or 1.0 from VAH 1040 or two of VAH 1041A/B – VAH 1045A/B or permission of the Department of Visual Arts.

**Course Description:** The fascination with the heavens dates back to the beginning of human history and persists to the present day. The nature of this interest has obviously changed over time, as has our interpretation of it in art and architecture. This course examines the representation of the celestial, looking as far back as the Neolithic period, but with the bulk of its attention focused on Western Art from the 19th century to the present. Artists of particular interest will include Giotto, Giovanni Di Paolo, Donato Creti, Vincent van Gogh, Joseph Cornell, Nancy Holt, Max Ernst, James Turrell, Patterson Ewen, Anselm Kiefer, Shi Zhiying, and Olafur Eliasson. Each provides a unique vision that moves beyond simple representations of the celestial objects that populate the universe.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The point of this course, beyond the obvious acquisition of knowledge of the topic we will be addressing over the term, is to have you engage in an open and active discussion of key historical and contemporary issues from the various perspectives offered by the authors we read, as well the thoughts of your peers on the topics addressed in class discussions. You should be able to critically engage with the readings both verbally and in writing, and both in a summary form and more expansively. By the end of this course you will have further developed and/or refined the tools needed to identify and grasp the salient points of an argument whether presented in oral, written or visual form, be able to reiterate them, while drawing connections between sources from different disciplines, genres, and media. Lastly, you will be exposed to a variety of methodological and aesthetic approaches that will encourage creative handling of the topics discussed, while respecting the disciplinary norms of the fields of study addressed in this course.

**Evaluation:** Marks will be based on the following:

1. 10% devoted to class attendance and participation: 5% for just being there and 5% for "talking-it-up" in class.
2. 30% assigned to three short half-page (100 words) reading assessments; only up-coming texts that are at least five pages long are eligible and you have to have one written up by the end of September, the end of October, and the end of November. Or, a twenty-minute presentation on a topic or artist dealt with in one of the sets of weekly readings although not necessarily all of the readings for the week in question; the presentation must be made during the assigned week of the readings used.

**3.** 15% for a project proposal for your major assignment (see "4") which has to be at least 250 words long and include an annotated bibliography of at least three "substantial" sources. The annotations must be at least 50 words long each. This assignment is due Oct. 11, 2016.

**4.** A major assignment worth 45% and due November 29, 2016, that can take the form of either:

a) the writing of standard academic essay of around 2500 words (typed, double spaced, approx. 10 pages, Chicago-Style), or something a tad more creative such as a mock interview with an artist or group of artists.

b) the curation of an imaginary art show involving at least 10 works. The show must include documentation relevant to each work and an essay that explains the rationale for exhibiting these works together (this must be quite specific) -- the written documentation should add up to at least 1500 words (a bibliography must be included). A layout of how the works would be hung should be supplied as well.

c) The production of a website revolving around an artist or an art movement, or even one of the sections or sub-sections of the course. The website should have a well-laid out rationale for its existence, and there should be at least 1500 words worth of original text (and include a bibliography).

d) The creation of an art work revolving around an astronomical theme with accompanying documentation that explains the piece, its rationale, and the process involved in its making totally at least 500 words.

**N.B.** Team proposals/projects will be considered.

**Penalties:** any assignment submitted late will be penalized 5% per day and will not be accepted 5 days past its due date. If there are medical grounds, then documentation must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office of your home Faculty for any missed graded component of the course worth more than 10%; for anything less than 10%, a make-up will simply be arranged.

**Course Materials:** All of the materials for this course are available either on-line, through the Weldon Library website, or will be posted on the course site at <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

## Western Ontario Visual Arts Department

### **POLICIES**

#### **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.

#### **Attendance:**

A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

#### **Prerequisites:**

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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 1170). (Refer to [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html#](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html#) or the 2016/2017 Western Academic Calendar, p. 18-19, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.) 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.

**Medical Policy:**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

**Mental Health:**

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

**Building Access:**

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 pm-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. 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.

**Please remember:**

One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Professor C. Barteet (tel. 519-661-3440; [vaugc@uwo.ca](mailto:vaugc@uwo.ca)). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family

emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counselor for your Faculty. Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the academic counselors in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities located in IGA Building, Room 1N20.

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; [www.sdc.uwo.ca](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca)) offers a wide range of useful services including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca).

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students. Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, [finaid@uwo.ca](mailto:finaid@uwo.ca); or check out their website at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances/financial\\_counselling.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html)