

# CANADIAN ART

VAH 2272G – winter 2018



Kent Monkman, *Welcome to the Studio*, 2014

## Western University, Department of Visual Arts

Class time: Wednesdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (this is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings)

Location: TC 204

## Professor Sarah Bassnett

Email – [sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca](mailto:sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca)

Office hours – Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 220

Teaching assistants – Michelle Rosenblat [mrosen33@uwo.ca](mailto:mrosen33@uwo.ca)

TA office hours – TBA in VAC 241

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the visual arts in Canada with a focus on modern and contemporary art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Taking a thematic and generally chronological approach, we examine important artistic movements, including impressionism, post-impressionism, abstraction, pop, and conceptual art, in relation to their social and political context. We also explore aspects of First Nations and Inuit art, cultural policy, and museum and gallery collecting practices in Canada. The course provides an important foundation for students planning to work in the arts and culture sector in Canada. This is a blended course with online content in addition to weekly class meetings.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- explain the significance of the work of important artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and artistic context in which it was produced
- describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of art works using appropriate terminology
- summarize the main argument of essays on Canadian art and explain your point of view on the issues in writing
- conduct research, and use the sources effectively in a research assignment

- articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments
- participate constructively in online and in-class discussions by sharing ideas and by listening respectfully to the views of others

### **PREREQUISITE / ANTI-REQUISITE**

The prerequisite is 1.0 from VAH 1040 or two of VAH 1041A/B – VAH 1045A/B, or permission of the department. You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as the basis for an appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it without an adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

---

Required text for this course:

***The Visual Arts in Canada: The Twentieth Century*, edited by Anne Whitelaw, Brian Foss, and Sandra Paikowsky (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)**

The book is available at the University Bookstore. Additional readings are posted as PDFs on OWL.

**Class preparation:** This is a blended course, which means it is essential that you read the assigned texts, watch the videos, and participate in activities before each class. The equivalent of 1 hour of weekly class time is directed to online activities, including contributing to discussions on OWL. In order to read or watch actively and to create a record of your thoughts on the texts, I highly recommend taking notes, which you can then review for tests and exams. Completing the assigned readings, watching the videos, etc. will take most students a total of approximately 2-3 hours a week.

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have done the readings in preparation for the day they are listed. Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

---

#### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION 10%** (weekly)

Your attendance will be monitored and will count for a portion of the 10%. The participation portion of your grade will be based on your contributions to weekly online and in-class discussions and activities. You are also expected to come to class having read and made notes on the weekly readings. Arriving late to class, leaving early, not completing the required readings, and not participating in discussions and activities will significantly reduce your participation mark.

#### **READING RESPONSE JOURNAL – 10%** (due 11 am March 7)

Select five of the assigned chapters from the course text, and write a concise (approximately 250-word) summary of each one, along with a brief analytical comment. Your summary should state the main idea of the essay and explain how the author builds an argument to support the main idea. Your comment should articulate your point of view on the issues discussed in the essay. See the assignment sheet posted on OWL for more tips on critical reading. Be sure to indicate the title and author for each of the readings, followed by

your summary and comment. Submit one Word document with all five reading responses through the assignments link in OWL.

**COLLECTIONS REPORT – 35%** (due 11 am March 21)

This assignment will take the form of report in the range of 7-8 pages / 1700-2000 words. It asks you to put yourself in the position of Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada (NGC). As curator, you are charged with acquiring one new work for the NGC’s Canadian art collection. Using criteria discussed in class, your task is to consider which one of five works would make the most significant contribution to the collection. An assignment sheet and research documents will be posted on OWL. Submit the report through the assignments link in OWL.

The assignment will assess the following learning outcomes: 1) conduct research, and use the sources effectively in a research assignment 2) describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of artworks using appropriate terminology; 3) explain the significance of the work of important artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and artistic context in which it was produced; 4) articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments.

**MID-TERM TEST & FINAL EXAM 15% and 30%** (Feb. 14 and final exam period)

The final exam will include slide comparisons, terms, short answer and essay questions and will assess the following learning outcomes: 1) explain the significance of the work of important Canadian artists, including how it relates to the social, political, and / or artistic context in which it was produced; and 2) describe and analyze the formal properties of a range of artworks using appropriate terminology.

**GRADING**

Attendance & participation	10%	Weekly
Mid-term test	15%	Feb. 14
Reading response journal	10%	March 7
Collections report	35%	March 21
Final exam	30%	Final exam period (April 9 - 30)

**LATE POLICIES**

Extensions, granted for valid reasons, must be negotiated BEFORE assignments are due. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% each day, unless appropriate documentation (a doctor’s note, for example) is provided. 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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the professor or the department. Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totaling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, should be discussed with the professor. In order to have a request considered, students must contact the professor no later than the day after the assignment is due or attendance is missed. All course work must be submitted by the last day of classes, which is April 6, 2017.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All work for the course MUST be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. We will discuss the appropriate citation style in class. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, consult the Chicago Manual of Style guide on OWL Sakai in the Resources section, visit the Writing Centre, or talk to me well before the assignment due dates. All course work must be completed specifically for this course. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism includes:

1. Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. Submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement;
4. Knowingly representing as one's own an idea of another.

For information concerning Western's Plagiarism and Academic Offences (Scholastic Offences) policies see: [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html#](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html#)

All assignments may be subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University of Western Ontario currently uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the Internet, e-journals, e-books, and a range of other scanned material, including other assignments for this course. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

### **CITATION STYLE**

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>

© 2018 Sarah Bassnett