

Department of Visual Arts
Western University

VAS 3392B Special Topics in Visual Arts
Community Engagement Learning – Embroidering with the Guild

Welcome to our first Community Engagement Learning course in Visual Arts! I am very pleased that you have enrolled and I am looking forward to an excellent semester. This course outline and syllabus contain pertinent information about course components including our schedule with the Guild, art materials and a timeline of the assignments and assignment due dates. You will also find important information about learning outcomes, Western University's Grade Descriptors and your responsibilities as a student in the course. We will go over the course outline in class, but please do read this document thoroughly and refer to it throughout the semester.

Tricia Johnson

Course Description

This community engaged studio course aims to give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of textile arts by learning the skill of embroidery by partnering with the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London. Along with these new skills, students will use their past art-making experience in Visual Arts to work cooperatively with the Embroiderers' Guild to create a large embroidered artwork which will be permanently installed in a public space in London, Ontario. Alongside the production of the large, site-specific artwork, students will explore different techniques in embroidery, each producing an individual "sampler" which will document their experiences and learning in the course. Students will engage with the community by attending events and get-togethers organized by the Embroiderer's Guild and will reflect on their experience in the course with a short presentation or written response. Throughout the course, students will also initiate their own embroidery/ textile art research to further enhance their individual sampler artworks.

Course Information

Instructor:	Tricia Johnson Room 215, JLVAC 519-661-2111 x 85721 tcjohnso@uwo.ca
Canadian Embroiderer's Guild:	Pat Ferries Deb Gorman-Smith
Teaching Assistant:	Sharmistha Kar skar2@uwo.ca

Class Time and Location: Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30 to 11:30 am
John Labatt Visual Arts Centre room 206

Tricia's Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3pm or by appointment

Online: To facilitate VAS, students can access the VAS 3392B OWL SAKAI site through OWL / Sakai Documentation <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Learning Outcomes

- *Depth and Breadth of Knowledge:* Students will acquire a range of technical skills required to engage in the material practice of embroidery. Some skills will be taught through our meetings with the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London but students will also be encouraged to research contemporary and historical embroidery work to assist in their material explorations. Students will also become familiar with the historical genesis of and terms associated with embroidery as well as contemporary discourses surrounding these materials through informal presentations during in-class work periods as well as sharing information outside of class time on OWL.
- *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain a further understanding of textile and fibre-based methodologies and the visual possibilities the media through practical applications as they create their own embroidery sampler.
- *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate orally regarding their projects through critique and class discussion, as well as expanding their ability to work with community members in order to research, design and complete our collaborative embroidered artwork.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed by referring to the Syllabus: Timeline in the Course Outline. All assignments, procedures and due dates are in the Syllabus: Timeline.

- Attendance for this course is 100% mandatory and it is expected that you will attend every class as well as attend a selection of events held by The Canadian Embroiderer's Guild. If you are not attending class, the Department Policy for attendance will be implemented.

Academic Accommodation

- 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 MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation.
- A student who cannot complete assignments totaling less than 10% for the whole course, due to medical reasons, must also apply to the Academic Counseling Office of their home Faculty and PROVIDE MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation.

Departmental 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, 7th ed., p. 1170). (Refer to www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html# 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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation. 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/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
- **Building Access:**
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.

- **Please remember:**

One of the most important resources for course counseling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. Cody Barteet (tel. 519-661-3440; 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. Faculty of Arts and Humanities is located in IGA Building, Room 1N20 (Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the counselors for A&H).

- The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; 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.
- Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program that offer part-time positions on campus for Western students. Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, finaid@uwo.ca; or check out their website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html
- 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://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg115.html>

Additional Requirements

- Students are expected to spend a minimum 1 to 2 hours outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.
- The instructor and the TA will hold weekly stitching time in the Visual Arts Building, outside of scheduled class time, for students to access and work on the collaborative project.
- Students must fill out the CEL Experiential Learning Agreement online at the beginning of the course.
- We will be travelling during the course in order to take advantage of events with The Canadian Embroiderer's Guild as well as to take a field trip to purchase embroidery supplies at Thread and Eye. At times I will be able to organize a bus for transportation or we will take the LTC. Transportation will be discussed in class with enough fair warning.

- Because of the collaborative nature of this course, I expect everyone enrolled in the course to embrace this collaboration and work in a respectful and inclusive manner with each other and the members of the Guild. I hope to foster a positive and creatively exhilarating environment for everyone and I need your help to do so – Tricia.

Evaluation

Assignments to be marked will be assessed and given a number grade, and written comments, based on specific grading rubrics pertaining to course assignments. All grades will be posted to OWL under the Gradebook Tab. The Commitment mark will be assigned at the end of the semester. The Gradebook will be hidden the following day of the last day of University scheduled classes in April in order for final marks to be submitted to the Registrar. Students will receive their final grade from the Registrar and the Gradebook will be available for view the first week of May.

Visual Arts follows Western University's Grade Descriptors as follows:

A+ /90-100%	Outstanding work; one could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A / 80 – 89%	Superior work that is clearly above average
B / 70 – 79%	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C / 60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting requirements
D / 50 – 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F /below 50%	Unsatisfactory work which shows insufficient effort or comprehension

Final Grade will be comprised as follows:

Individual Embroidered Sampler	25%
Embroidered Work on Large Collaborative Project	50%
Research Presentation or Written Statement	10%
Commitment to Course	15%
<i>Which includes:</i>	
Attendance & Punctuality for all Scheduled Class Time	
Attending Canadian Embroiderer's Guild Scheduled Events	
Preparedness (bringing materials to class)	
Work Ethic in class, including cleaning up	
Attention, Participation & Engagement in Class and Guild's events	
Commitment to working on Collaborative project outside class time	

Materials:

At the beginning of the course, we will take a field trip to ***Thread and Eye***, a stitching shop in London (962 Leathorne St #1, London, ON N5Z 3M5, 519-685-1444) in order to buy supplies for your Individual Sampler as well as working on the Large Collaborative Project.

You will need the following basic supplies. We will discuss the supplies thoroughly in class before the field trip

Embroidery hoop	Scissors	Thimble
Threads	Fabric for Individual Sampler	
Needles	Container for supplies and Sampler	