

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts  
Fall 2019

**AH 1642A History of Art and Visual Culture: Baroque to Contemporary**

Lecture: Thursday 2:30-4:30 PM – MC Room 110

Tutorial and Learning Labs held online

Professor:

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**Course Description:**

Catalogue Description: An introductory visual and historical survey with a focus on Western art from the Baroque period to Contemporary times. The course provides a study of painting, sculpture, architecture, and other forms of media through considerations of the cultural environments within which they were produced. Students will gain a working knowledge of terms, methodologies, and themes in art history.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Antirequisite(s):** Art History 1640, the former VAH 1040.

**Extra Information:** 2 lecture hours and 1 tutorial hour, or blended/online format.

Overview: The visual arts are an ever-present aspect of our daily lives. Art can be found all around us: from simple photographic reproductions on a wall to the contours and lines of our automobiles. Whether it is simple doodling from boredom in a notebook to a political critique, art is created for a purpose. This course examines the evolution of the art and architecture in Europe and the Americas as it developed from the Baroque era to today. Our objective is to obtain

an appreciation for the role the visual arts have played in the history of civilization, primarily from a Western perspective. We will explore the creative processes of art, its history, and current themes and trends in the art world as we ask why art is produced and how we respond to those works whether with pleasure, disgust, angst, among other emotions.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to assist you in:

- gaining knowledge about artistic and visual cultural production within a series of diverse historical contexts.
- Understanding the issues and debates pertaining to the study of art and visual culture
- gaining familiarity with terminology, stylistic classifications, methods, and theories employed in the study of art and visual culture.
- developing the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired about art and visual culture.