

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
**AH 2600G: THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF ART HISTORY AND VISUAL
CULTURE**
Online Course (Asynchronous) – (Winter 2021)

Professor: Maxwell Hyett
Email: mhyett@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 955 3782 3433
Zoom Password: 746979

Online Check-In: Monday 2:30 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 949 5549 8787
Zoom Password: 940818

Graduate Teaching Assistants: TBD
Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a brief introduction to historical and contemporary theories, methods, and practices for the study of art history and visual culture. Students will become familiar with the history of ideas that has shaped art historical investigation and the study of visual culture. From theory, to history, to criticism and analysis, students will study disciplinary and institutional specificities intrinsic to the organization of knowledge and development of epistemological systems. Through the examination of a diverse range of individual art works, exhibitions, and visual culture more broadly defined, we will develop theoretically informed approaches to think critically about the many ways in which art and visual culture functions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course it is expected that you will:

- have knowledge of key historical and contemporary theories and practices of art history and visual culture studies
- be familiar with relevant vocabularies used in the study of art history and visual culture
- improve your capacity for critical thinking and writing

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course will be delivered remotely, online through OWL. (There will be **no** in-person lectures, office hours, meetings or exams.)

Class will consist of two main components: live weekly check-ins at the beginning of each class and pre-recorded virtual lectures. Students are expected to read the required readings, watch all lectures, take notes and complete all assignments.

REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Readings will be posted on the OWL course site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

You access this site by using the same ID and password as your UWO email account.

OWL

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our course site on OWL <<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>>. Here is a brief outline of the key online features you will be using:

- **Weekly Lessons:** This succession of tabs (i.e. Week 1, Week 2, etc.) will contain the corresponding week's readings, lecture and quizzes.
- **Messages:** I will use this to post updates, comments on class matters, and reminders of important dates. Please be sure that you receive OWL announcements from this course to your email inbox.
- **Assignments:** This section provides you with detailed instructions for each of your assignments, due dates and grading weights.
- **Tests & Quizzes:** This is the section where you will find weekly quizzes based on the lectures and assigned readings.
- **Resources:** This section provides you with additional readings and resources that do not fit within a weekly schedule.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

1. Email: You are free to email either me with questions or concerns at any time, but please note that I will not respond to emails 24/7. You should expect to receive a reply within 24 hours of receiving your message, but not on weekends. This means questions about an assignment need to be sent with enough advance to receive an answer before it is due. *Email is best for short questions, clarifications and sharing material.*

2. Office hours: For the duration of our respective office hours I will be prepared to chat with you on Zoom. That said, you will need to email me beforehand and arrange to meet, either during these office hours or we can arrange another time. *Video chatting on Zoom is best for discussions and larger issues not easily covered in emails.*

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

All materials will be submitted through OWL and must be work done entirely by the student expressly for this course. Please consult the Writing Centre if you have any confusion regarding definitions of academic honesty within University practices. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of policies governing academic honesty and to be clear on what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating. Writing Support Centre, <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If for any reason you cannot hand in an assignment by the specified due date please anticipate and discuss the matter with me as soon as possible. Late assignments are typically subject to a 10% penalty per week. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to hand in all late assignments.

If you are unable to meet assignment deadlines for medical, religious or extra-ordinary circumstances please inform me as soon as possible and refer to the 'Academic Consideration' section of at the end of this syllabus, under 'Policies.'

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCES

Students may report up to two 48-hour absences (in a given September-April academic

period) for which they are seeking academic consideration (eg. no late penalties for assignments, alternative arrangements for missed assignments). The self-reporting portal may not be used for consideration for work worth more than 30% or for final exams or mid-terms scheduled during the exam period.

CITATION STYLE GUIDELINES

The Department of Visual Arts adheres to Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. Please refer to the Writing Support Centre, <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>, or visit these links:

1. <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
2. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Article Summaries **15% (2 x 7.5%)** **January 18 and 25**

You are required to write three summaries due on Weeks 2, 3 and 4. Summaries should be a maximum of 500 words or two pages double-spaced. In each summary you should focus on one key term used by the author(s), providing one direct quote in which the term is used, as well as your own discussion of its significance. The summaries must be written in paragraph form and submitted before the beginning of the class in which the text is discussed.

Weekly Quizzes **20% (10 x 2%)** **Ongoing**

Classes on and between Weeks 2–11 will be followed by short quizzes on the lectures. These will be short answer questions worth 5% each. The quiz will be available immediately following the class until Friday at 11:59 PM of the same week. *If you do not write the quiz during this window you will receive a 0%.* It is advisable to do these as early as possible to avoid forgetting either the material or the quiz entirely.

Short Essay **25%** **March 1**

For this assignment you will write a **3–5 page** essay that focuses on one artwork by an artist of your choosing that reflects or explores one key term from the class readings. You are welcome to choose any work of art, but remember that it is your responsibility to demonstrate how the key term of your choosing is related to the artwork. You must use a minimum of one course reading and provide one direct quote with proper citation.

Final Essay **30%** **April 12**

For this assignment you will write a **4–8 page** essay that focuses on one artist or art historian that explores their methodology in either theoretical or practical terms, or both. You are welcome to choose any artist or art historian, but you must choose someone different than who you wrote on for your Short Essay. It is your responsibility to demonstrate their methodology through a direct analysis of two or three works (for an artist this is likely to be an artwork but may also appear in their writing – if they have writings – and the same goes for art historians). You must use a minimum of two course readings that you quote directly and cite properly.

Participation **10%** **Ongoing**

Participation is a very important part of class. You must be prepared to engage in course material, which includes readings, lectures, and assignments as well as the feedback you receive. Participation is not simply 'showing up,' but a concerted effort to contribute and respond to the course.

RUBRIC

The University of Western Ontario – Department of Visual Arts Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)

The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with

enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.

Western University 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.

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):

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.

For the 2020-2021 academic year the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be available by card access only for students who have in-person classes in the building.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Middlesex College does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO:

http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.

Please contact the Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite (jslauen@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

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.

Attendance:

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (*15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester*) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments.

Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero).

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). 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.

Quizzes

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating

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.

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.

Support Services:

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>
5. Mental Health -- https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Health and Wellness:

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
3. (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report,

accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence
- **Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
3. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
4. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
5. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations
6. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.