

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts

Course: Practicum
Title: SA 4605
Time: Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30-11:30 online synchronous
Term: Fall 2020/ Winter 2021
Professor: Anna Madelska (abarelk@uwo.ca)
Online Meetings can be arranged by Appointment.

Technical Requirements



Stable Internet Connection



Working Microphone



Laptop or Computer



Working Webcam

Online Course Requirements

This course is virtual synchronous with virtual asynchronous components. This means that we will meet online as a group twice a week to frame the topics that students have reviewed independently online prior to each session. The online meetings will allow for questions, discussions, introduction of projects and assignments as well as both process and final critiques of work. It is necessary for students to come to each synchronous session prepared, by reviewing all the material that has been posted for that day BEFORE the online group meets. This allows students to discuss the subject that was introduced and ask questions to clarify points that may arise.

Attendance at synchronous sessions is required. Asynchronous work must be completed prior to each session.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class. If students need assistance with technology, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Course Description

Practicum is a studio course designed to allow students to develop an individual studio practice in the context of contemporary art issues and a variety of media processes. It will, at all times, emphasize critical analysis and energetic discussion in combination with an intensive commitment to probing ideas through creative exploration.

Alongside the independent material and theoretical research, students will be introduced to the business of a successful art practice. This course will discuss the Canadian gallery system, the Canadian Arts Councils, the successful writing of artist statements, application processes for exhibitions, residencies, grants and schools, how to develop artist talks and how to build an online presence.

Learning Outcomes

A. Autonomy and Professional Capacity

- Students will understand the range of opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.
- Students will understand the range of opportunities for art researchers within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.

B. Application of Knowledge

- Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects in order to create a body of work.
- Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works.

C. Communication Skills

- Students will be able to communicate in writing and orally regarding their projects and regarding relevant art and culture, and will recognize the range of language suited to differing communication opportunities (i.e. a grant application vs. a grad school application).
- Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing with regard to their art history research, and will be able to utilize different genres of writing for different purposes (i.e., to write an academic paper, or a magazine article).

Course Objectives

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

- Present a honed and cohesive independent body of work and research.
- Demonstrate perceptual, visual and conceptual skills through art making and as a critical viewer.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional artist career trajectories and how these may relate to their own practice.
- Create a professional artist dossier and present their work in a professional manner.
- Prepare written and visual work for publication through the creation of a catalogue.
- Install and present their work professionally in a professional gallery setting.
- Demonstrate a grasp of historical and contemporary issues relevant to the making and evaluation of contemporary practices in the visual arts.
- Demonstrate the ability to translate and present information through various presentation strategies and media and understand shifts in meaning generated through this process.

Grading Breakdown Per Term

TERM ONE

<i>Independent Studio Project: Midterm</i>	35%
<i>Independent Studio Project: End of term</i>	35%
<i>Research File</i>	10%
<i>Preparing Applications</i>	10%
<i>Participation</i>	10%

TERM TWO

<i>Independent Studio Project: Midterm</i>	35%
<i>Independent Studio Project: End of term</i>	35%
<i>Artist Talk</i>	10%
<i>Website</i>	10%
<i>Participation</i>	10%

Studio Assignments

All assignments are due at 11:55 EST unless otherwise specified.

All studio grades will reflect the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate* the project objectives outlined in each studio assignment.

Students will be provided with verbal comments during critiques. Formal evaluation of students' progress with comments and a number grade will take place after the critique presentation.

Critiques

Each term, students will have two opportunities to formally present their most recent studio work for discussion with instructors and peers. The schedule for these critiques will be established before the critique. Studio work presented for discussion in the critiques should represent recently completed projects. In some cases, very major or multi-faceted projects may be presented still in development. All finished and work-in-progress projects presented must demonstrate a vigorous commitment to process as well as demonstrate an evolved conceptual and material practice. For all formal critiques students should provide instructors with a list of (working) titles, material details and installation notes. For some critiques students will assume responsibility for effectively introducing and facilitating discussion around their work and the work of their peers, however students may also be asked to take the role of an observer, making notes of the direction and topics of discussion in relation to their work. These notes will be reviewed with the course instructors during studio meetings/visits to assess what expectations of the work were met, and if expectations of the work were not met what future directions could be investigated. All class members are expected to actively participate in these critiques and will be evaluated on both the presentation of their work as well as their generous engagement with the work of others.

Readings

Students will participate in a number of seminar-like discussions on a variety of provided texts. Thorough knowledge of these texts will be required for active participation and students. On the day of each discussion, students must prepare three engaged questions related to the reading. We will use these questions in class to discuss the reading. Good questions should show an engagement and understanding of the ideas presented in the text, and should be as specific as possible, rather than general. Participating in discussion is an integral part of the participation grade.

Students will need to purchase the course text:

Saltz, Jerry. *How to be an Artist* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2020).

Over the course of the first semester, students will develop a **research file of their own research interests** (books/essays/articles, films, podcasts, and other cultural material/sources may be included). The finished file should have a minimum of 10 sources listed and each annotation should describe the text and why it is of interest. It is assumed that these sources will be a valuable help in preparing both the written component (artist statement) and studio component (critiques) of the course research.

Committee Work

Committee work is an important part of the Practicum Course and a large part of the participation grade. Each student will volunteer or be assigned a role in a committee. Specific roles will be discussed in class. Each student will submit a short report on their activities on the dates requested. Committee positions will often rely on each member to do a good job, so good planning and communication are essential.

Evaluation

Students' work and performance will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and numerical grades will be posted on the course Owl site at the end of each project. All student work will be evaluated according to the following criteria (for more detail on terms of reference for studio grading see [Department Grading Criteria](#) below)

Department Grading Criteria

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **studio work** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The **studio work** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has

been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The **studio work** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

70-74 (Good, B)

The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The **studio work** demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The **studio work** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The **studio work** demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

Course Requirements

Studio Assignments and Critique Discussions

Full class critiques and small group discussion sessions are regularly scheduled in online sessions and represent important assessment situations in the course. Student preparation and active participation in these sessions is a requirement of the class. In addition to affecting participation grades, students late or otherwise not prepared for scheduled critiques or discussions will forfeit the opportunity for class feedback on their work.

Failure to complete assignments without prior consultation with instructor may result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with 10% per day late penalty deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day).

Participation and Attendance

Attendance at synchronous sessions is mandatory and regularly taken. Students are expected to show up to every session, on time, and with the lecture materials already reviewed.

Missing synchronous sessions, or part of a session without documented excuse or prior consultation with the instructor, will adversely affect students' grades.

Students are expected to make themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates, and are required to complete all assignments by date of submission or critique. With fair notice to students, the course syllabus may change to adapt to class needs. It is the students' responsibility to remain apprised of such changes.

Communication

Students should check the OWL site every 24-48 hours.

Emails will be monitored daily. Students will receive a response in 24-48 hours.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held remotely and by appointment. Please email the instructor to set up an appointment.

Department Policies

Statement on prerequisite checking:

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.

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 fulfill 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:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (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
- (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:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. 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;

- c. 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;
- d. 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;
- e. 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
- f. 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;
- g. 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

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.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

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.

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.

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://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

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.

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.

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/.