

Department of Visual Arts
Western University

VAS 2236a Introduction to Print Media

Welcome to Introduction to Print Media! Below you will find all the necessary information about this course including some important points concerning demonstrations, working in class and materials. All aspects of the course will be discussed in class, but please read the course outline and refer back to it throughout the semester.

Tricia Johnson

Calendar Description

An introduction to print media practices including relief, intaglio, and silkscreen.

Please Note: Students are responsible for ensuring they have successfully completed all course prerequisites (VAS 1020 or VAS 1025) and that they have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a 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 fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Course Objectives

This course offers an introduction to learn the fundamental print processes and techniques of relief, intaglio and silkscreen. Students will also consider contemporary and historical issues of print media through readings, discussions and critiques that will enhance and deepen the student's artistic production. Students will create a body of work over the semester that demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the technical skills and quality necessary to produce work that is, in addition, critically well informed.

Course Format

The semester will consist of 3 large student-interpreted assignments, given by the instructor, for each of the 3 print processes taught. 3 groups of readings will be assigned and will be discussed in class in a seminar situation, facilitated by three OWL assignment submissions. Each large print assignment will begin with a slide lecture by the instructor and a thorough demonstration of the techniques involved in the print process, by the technician. Post demonstration, students will review technical procedures through three quizzes on OWL. Students will also give preliminary presentations to the class about their visual intentions for each assignment. Several work periods are scheduled for students to work in class in order to receive the instructor and the technician's assistance. Each print assignment will also incorporate a preliminary in-progress critique and will conclude with a collaborative class critique, assessing student's preliminary intentions compared to their finished work.

Importantly, training and awareness of health and safety issues will be integrated into all studio practices and *strictly enforced*.

The Anti-Requisite for this course is VAS 2236b

Course Information

Instructor: Professor Tricia Johnson
Room 215, JLVAC
519-661-2111 x 85721
tcjohnso@uwo.ca

Technician: Jessica Desparois
jwoodwa5@uwo.ca

Class: John Labatt Visual Arts Centre room 106
Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30 to 11:30am

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1:30 – 3pm or by appointment

Required Text: VISUAL ARTS STUDIO 2236a *Introduction to Print Media Custom Course Book*
Purchase at the BOOKSTORE in U.C.C.

Online: To facilitate VAS 2236a, students can access the VAS 2236a 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 fundamental technical skills required to engage in the material practice of printmaking. Students will also become familiar with the historical genesis and terms of the print material areas being studied as well as contemporary opinions of such materials.
- *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain an understanding of print methodologies and visual possibilities of each media through practical applications; specifically working through the technical process of each media when creating their work.
- *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate orally regarding their projects through critique. Students will also practice their answering skills in our reading discussion seminars.

Attendance, Preparedness, Working in Class

- VAS 2236b is a Studio class, therefore all the instruction happens in the studio. **Full attendance is mandatory.** Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (4 classes per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations and/or critiques. 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.

Fair warning will be given through email and departmental letters to students if lack of attendance is persistent.

- Students are expected to come **prepared to participate** in all class activities, lectures, work periods and critiques. This includes having all the necessary art materials you need for each specific class session. Students are expected to work on their art assignments during work periods. Attendance during such classes is mandatory.
- Attendance is taken during each class by the instructor. Leaving the class early will be recorded.
- **Do not come late!** Lateness is disrespectful to the instructor and your fellow students. If you do come late, it will be recorded by the instructor and will adversely affect your participation mark.

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.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates for critique. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor could result in a failing grade. If you choose to hand in work late, **2% per day will be deducted from the assignment** (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day) and no written feedback will be given to late work. **One week after the due date, late work will not be accepted and the student will be given a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment.** The final assignments are due on the last class in April. Assignments not received on the last class will be given a mark of 0 (zero).
- Students are expected to **clean-up after each work session.**
- **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. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.**
- **A student who cannot complete assignments totaling less than 10% for the whole course, due to medical reasons, may speak with the instructor and arrange an extension of no more than two weeks to complete the assignments, WITH MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.**
- **Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.**
- Students are expected to spend a minimum 1-hour outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.
- Students **must** take **detailed notes** during the demonstrations throughout the semester. Printmaking is a very involved process; it cannot be learned intuitively and it is imperative that you take detailed notes to refer to when you are working. As well, you are shown how to properly use the equipment and materials in the demonstration for your own safety as well as to maintain the equipment in the shop. When you have a technical problem, the instructor and the technician will want to refer to your notes as an aspect of assisting you. Not taking notes during a demonstration will negate your ability to ask the technician and instructor for technical assistance. **Reckless use of shop equipment as well as disregarding health and safety procedures are grounds for being removed from the class.**
- Demonstrations in Introduction to Print Media can often be 4 to 6 hours long and cover 2 full class periods. Demonstrations of such length can never be repeated. Attendance at demonstrations is mandatory in order for every student to understand the procedures of each print practice.

Departmental and University 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.
- **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 <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg113.html> or the 2013/2014 Western Academic Calendar, p. 19-21, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)
- **Building Access:** The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. 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 counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. D. Merritt (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 (Mr. Ben Hakala and Ms. Amanda Green are the counselors for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities).
- The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services to students 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 which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students. Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, finaid@uwo.ca; or check out their website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/index.cfm

Evaluation

Every Print Assignment will have an in-progress critique, which will be given a mark out of 20. In-progress artwork will be given comments based only on technical issues in the work. Finished Assignments will be marked and assessed and given an additional number grade out of 80, based on the grading rubric of Creative, Conceptual, Technical/Material and Resolution (mark out of 20 each). Students’ artwork will be given verbal comments during critiques and written comments with each grade.

Grades for Artwork will reflect the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate*

- Student's success in accordance with general course objectives (as above) and specific assignment objectives.
- Completion and quality of assignments
- Understanding of project concepts and the ability to express that understanding
- Degree of inventiveness and ambition of assignments
- Participation and commitment to process

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

The Final Grade will be comprised of

Print Assignments – **70% (relief 25%, etching 25%, screen 20%)**
 Demonstration Quizzes on OWL – **9% (3% each)**
 Preliminary Assignment Presentations– **9% (3% each)**
 Online OWL reading submissions – **6% (2% each)**
 Attendance and working in class – **6% (please see rubric below)**

Attendance Rubric

The following are general guidelines as to how I will mark attendance but any combination of missing class, lateness, leaving early and not working during set work periods will affect your mark.

(If you are really sick and cannot come to class, email me – no need to see your academic advisor. If you are sick and miss a deadline, get documentation and submit to your academic advisor for accommodation)

Full 6 marks – 100% attendance, no lates, no leaving early, *working diligently in class always*

5/6 marks - missing 1 class (with documentation), OR late once

4/6 marks –missing 1 class (no documentation), OR late twice, OR leaving early once

3/6 marks – missing 2 classes (no documentation), OR late 3 times, OR leaving early twice

2/6 marks – missing 3 classes (no documentation), OR late 4 times, or leaving early twice

1/6 marks – missing 4 classes (no documentation), OR late 5 times, or leaving early three times

0/6 marks – missing 5 classes (no documentation) – a warning will be issued

Readings

The Custom Course Book for VAS 2236b can be bought at the Bookstore, in the basement of the University Community Centre. It is a required reading package as it contains all the theoretical readings to be discussed throughout the semester. Each reading discussion seminar will be facilitated by an

assigned question to be answered on OWL by a specific due date. *If you miss the due date and do not submit and answer on OWL, you forfeit your mark. Please pay attention to such deadlines.*

Working in Class

It is imperative that students work during our class work sessions. **STUDENTS MUST SHARE THE EQUIPMENT AND WORK TOGETHER. MOST EQUIPMENT IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST TO USE BASIS.** Attending and using the time effectively to work on your assignments during such sessions is factored into the participation mark (i.e. socialize during break). Failure to work in class periods will not only affect student's participation marks drastically, but will affect the success of their course assignments.

Printshop Access

The printshop is open with access Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm except during VAS 3330 which meets 2:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursday afternoons. The shop is open from 12:00 (noon) to 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Students must work in these specified times and **must** work with a buddy for safety reasons. If you somehow manage to work in the print shop outside the scheduled hours, you may be asked by Campus Police to leave the premise or face trespassing charges.

Printshop Conduct

Please be respectful of each other in the printshop outside of class. Share the facilities equitably and also support a productive learning and working environment for everyone through your actions and words. Everyone who is registered in the course deserves to work in a respectful environment. As well, respect other people's time by using the shop, which includes the materials and presses, efficiently.

Critique Conduct

During our different presentations and critiques, including the "What are you doing?" presentations, in-progress critiques and final critiques for assignments, there is a **NO CELLPHONE IN YOUR HANDS** rule. Please put your cellphone away and give your full attention to your fellow students.

Materials/Supplies and Fees

All materials will be discussed on the first class and throughout the semester. Students will be expected to purchase some allotted materials from the instructor and to purchase materials individually. In addition there is an ink fee of \$ 90.00 per student for the semester. This fee may increase due to unexpected increases in costs. The ink fee covers several materials, which will be discussed in class.

INCLUDED IN LAB FEE:

Linoleum	Rags and Solvents	Screen Emulsion
Relief Inks	All cleaning supplies	and MANY other things
Copper plate	All etching grounds	
Etching Inks	Tarleton for etching (and other hard to find etching supplies)	

(Plan to spend on average another \$100 to \$150 on supplies including your paper, screen and screen ink)

Basic Supplies (to be supplied by individual students – you may already have these things)

- Apron
- Pencil
- Permanent Marker
- Olfa cutting knife
- Metal Ruler
- Scissors

Masking Tape (you need this for all 3 assignments!!!!!!)

Neoprene Gloves (available from the Chemistry Supply store)

Safety Goggles (splash goggles are used when etching and owned by department, safety goggles can also be purchased and the Chemistry Supply store)

Linoleum Supplies

Linoleum Cutter with several grooves

Acetate for registration sheet

Newsprint (large size – you need a lot of newsprint)

Suitable proofing and editioning paper see below

Etching Supplies

Burnisher (optional)

Scraper (optional)

Etching Needle (many options discussed in class)

Newsprint

Suitable proofing and editioning paper see below

Screen Supplies

INK – permanent acrylic water-based or fabric water-based

SCREEN – new screens and pre-owned screens are available from the technician

Stencils of image, separating the colours (hand drawn or digital)

Sharpie Oil pen marker (optional)

Acetate for registration

Spatulas

Containers for holding ink

Newsprint

Papers

Paper is the most expensive item you will buy for your Print assignments. However, good paper makes good prints. Be nice to your paper (no rolling, bending, creasing etc.) and please **do** write your name on each sheet of your good paper, on the back side.

Rene sells most of the paper you need to make your prints. However, you must purchase paper from her during her working hours.

- Stonehenge for Proofing (relief and etching)
- BFK Rives, white, cream, gray or warm golden colour (BEST PAPER FOR ETCHING)
- Somerset **Satin** White or Cream (BEST PAPER FOR RELIEF, GET THE SATIN)
- Arches (good paper for relief and etching)
- various papers for screen will be discussed in class

CAUTION: Lock your print drawer and place anything of importance in your other locker. Do not steal each other's lino tools, acetates, paper or anything else. Stealing is an offense and is grounds for being removed from the university, permanently.