

Western University  
 Department of Visual Arts  
 VAS 2275B

## ART NOW II: LIVE (Survive)

Term/Session	Winter 2016
Time	Thursday 7-10pm
Location	NCB113 (unless otherwise notified)
Professor	Christof Migone, <a href="mailto:cmigone@uwo.ca">cmigone@uwo.ca</a>
Office Location/Hours	VAC room 214, Tuesday 3-5pm, Thursday 10-11am, and by appointment
TAs	Paul Chartrand, <a href="mailto:lchartr@uwo.ca">lchartr@uwo.ca</a> ; and Ido Govrin, <a href="mailto:igovrin@uwo.ca">igovrin@uwo.ca</a>
TA Office Locations/Hours	tba
OWL/Sakai	<a href="https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/2e443997-73f5-452d-bf00-4fe8af834682">https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/2e443997-73f5-452d-bf00-4fe8af834682</a>

### Course Description/Objectives:

An introduction to contemporary artistic production, research and practice, featuring dialogues with artists on their work, cultural workers on their projects, plus curators and critics on the role criticism in contemporary art. Emphasis will be placed on major recent art movements and tendencies defined in an expanded sense. The course will also focus on developing critical writing skills and team work. This semester's theme, *LIVE (Survive)*, proposes a multi-layered examination of liveness and presentness. To live, and to be (a)live. In other words, we will be starting with the basic conditions denoting life and the act, the performance, the gesture that brings (a) work to life. Accent on the here and now—or as Clarice Lispector writes: "I plan nothing in my intuitive work of living. I let myself happen." Verbs come to mind: to breathe, to scavenge, to improvise, to hyperventilate, to read, to converse, to make, to play—all activators, prompts, triggers. The unabashedly eclectic series of guest speakers was devised so as to examine a variety of facets in contemporary art discourse and practice as they intersect with everyday life and the tensions at play when survival is at stake. What this course aims to highlight is the complexity of the questions *raised by* art and simultaneously *asked of* art within the context of the topic developed for this semester; the course will respond every week with a requisite set of thorough experimental investigations.

### Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course can expect to:

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge
  - Develop a knowledge of the diverse contemporary art practices and artists featured in the course and their connected key critical and theoretical frameworks.
  - Develop critical thinking and visual and aural analytical skills.
2. Knowledge of Methodologies
  - Develop knowledge of various methodologies, both paradigmatic and idiosyncratic.
  - Develop abilities to discern ambiguities and their generative potential.
3. Application of Knowledge
  - Produce innovative and inventive contributions to in-class discussions and through the various assignments.
4. Autonomy and Professional Capacity
  - Become familiar with the range of professional possibilities afforded to artists, theorists and curators in and out of the academy.

**Course Requirements:**

- Active e-mail address (communications outside of class will be done via e-mail and OWL).
- Students are expected to do the assigned course readings, and come to class prepared to discuss them with peers.
- An insatiable curiosity and a desire to learn, research, experiment and create.

**Attendance:**

- Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical.
- University regulations stipulate that if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or critiques.

**Assignments/Late Assignments:**

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with a 5% per day deduction from the assignment. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

**Medical Policy:**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components 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.

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>. Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

**Mental Health Policy:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

- 12%** Attendance and (Engaged) (Awake/Active) Participation
- 23%** In-Class (Checks and Balances) Quick Tests (usually 2% each per week)
- 10%** Written (Thoughtful) Review (of A Speaker) [DUE FEBRUARY 15]\*
- 25%** Group Project - (21s Century) (Expanded) Tableaux Vivants  
[IN PROGRESS DUE FEB 25: 5%, FINAL PRESENTATION MARCH 31: 20%]\*
- 30%** Solo Research Project (Artworks or Written or combination) [DUE APRIL 4 - digital only]\*

\*A detailed handout will be provided for these assignments in advance.

## Visual Arts Studio Grading Rubric

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.

## The University of Western Ontario 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.

#### **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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 1170). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html> or the 2015/2016 Western Academic Calendar, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)

#### **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.

#### **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. David Merritt (tel. 519-661-3440; [vaugc@uwo.ca](mailto: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, IGA Building, Room 1N20 (Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:finaid@uwo.ca); or check out their website at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances/financial\\_counselling.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html)