

**Western University**  
**Department of Visual Arts**  
**VAS 2254B**  
**Introduction to Contemporary Media Art II**

Term/Session: Winter 2017  
 Time Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am - 11:30am  
 Location VAC 139  
 Professor Colin Carney [ccarney@uwo.ca](mailto:ccarney@uwo.ca)  
 Office Hours Tuesday 11:30 - 12:30 - Rm 241B

**Course Description/Objectives:**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to media-based art. Students will be provided with hands on production experience, and will be familiarised with the critical, theoretical, and historical discourses surrounding digital media practices and related technologies. Students will develop the basic technical skills and conceptual foundations for production and critical engagement in the areas of electronic arts, computer applications, and media culture. Projects will explore the areas of sound, installation, performance, repurposing obsolete technologies, and video production.

No prior experience with computer technology is required, as this course is intended to prepare students for further study and exploration with digital media. This means that students who have some computer knowledge should have patience as we work through certain exercises and should also assist those who need help. Furthermore, students finding themselves in need of help should feel free to ask the instructor or lab technicians for clarification or assistance.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Knowledge of Methodologies

*Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the various media introduced in the course, be able to identify various ways works which operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects*

Application of Knowledge

*Students will use their capacities with various media as critical, discursive and expressive tools 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*

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. They will understand the appropriate means by which artists communicate with their peers, advance their careers etc.*

**Course Requirements and Materials**

- Active e-mail address (communications outside of class will be done via e-mail and owl)
- Active UWO card (Western One HID Card) for access to the labs
- External storage device: external HD or USB key card (min. 4 GB)
- SD card - preferably 8 to 16GB
- A piece of old/obsolescent technology to be used in a project after reading week (more on this later)
- An intense curiosity and a desire to experiment and create

**Attendance:**

Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical, as the teaching methods used will include class critiques, lectures and studio work. Under University regulations, 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 2% 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 assignments, presentations or participation components 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. A student who cannot complete coursework totalling **less than 10%** of their final grade, due to medical reasons, may speak with the instructor and arrange an extension of no more than one week to complete the assignments without presenting medical documentation.

For more information on accommodations for medical reasons, refer to

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Mental Health:**

"Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

[http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help."

**Course Evaluation:**

All grades will be based on the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

Understanding of project concepts and ability to express that understanding

Ambition, resourcefulness, creativity

Technical development

Completion and quality of assignments

Development and maturity of ideas

Attendance and participation in class activities

According to the above criteria, students will be assessed as follows:

- |    |           |   |
|----|-----------|---|
| A+ | 90 - 100% | Outstanding work, well exceeding basic requirements of the project, demonstrates profound insight and creativity.     |
| A  | 80 - 89 % | Excellent work, well exceeding the basic requirements of the project and demonstrates insight and creativity          |
| B  | 70 - 79%  | Good work, shows a thorough understanding of the course materials and exceeds the basic requirements                  |
| C  | 60 - 69%  | Satisfactory work, understands course material and meets the basic project requirements                               |
| D  | 50 - 59%  | Weak or unresolved work, understands some of the course material but meets only the basic requirements of the project |
| F  | Below 50% | Unsatisfactory, little effort, insufficient comprehension.  |

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

5%	Reading Responses
15%	Sound Project
15%	Performance Project
15%	Installation Group Project
15%	"Muse" Project
15%	Digital Poem Project
10%	Research Presentation
10%	Participation