

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts**

Course: Introduction to Painting VAS 2216B

Term: Winter 2018
Time: Monday & Wednesday 2:30–5:30 pm
Location: VAC 230
Instructor: Geordie Shepherd
Office Hours: Monday 1:30–2:30 pm
Office: VAC 213
email: gshephe@uwo.ca

Course Description

VAS 2216B explores the expressive and creative potential of painting and introduces important conceptual, theoretical and practical ideas within contemporary art. Students will be exposed to a variety of materials and working methods and engage in rigorous experimentation with the physical and critical processes of producing paintings. As an introductory course, emphasis will be given to perceptual development, practical skills and material awareness, with theoretical issues gradually integrated into the assignments as the semester proceeds. The course materials will be shared through instructor presentations, group critiques and discussions, technical demonstrations, assigned readings, and studio projects.

Learning Outcomes

Depth & breadth of Knowledge: Students will acquire a fundamental knowledge of the basic formal and technical concepts and vocabulary of Painting.

Knowledge of Methodology: Students will gain an understanding of drawing and painting's critical potential, be able to identify various ways drawing and paintings operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects.

Application of Knowledge: Students will engage their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the critical potential 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.

Classroom Conduct

- Be on time and be prepared to work. Arrive before class starts with all necessary materials and find a seat or if we will be drawing and or painting set-up your workspace, etc.
- Students are expected to clean up their work space and the room after each work session. Please do not leave a mess for someone else to clean up.
- Be considerate when sharing studio equipment, making room for each other, and respecting each other's focus. Also, please be considerate during my assignment & image discussions and demonstrations.
- Because music can enhance one's ability to focus and to work creatively, I might play music during class. If you prefer to listen to your own music please use ear buds, but please remove them during announcements or demonstrations.

OWL

Training: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Owl Course Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Readings and documents pertaining to lessons will be posted on Owl/ Sakai in the resources folder. It is your responsibility to ensure you read and understand them before class time.

Cell Phones & Social Media

Cell phones, watches & computers will not be used during class time for any purpose other than research directly related to this course. Turn all ringers off before class begins, or better yet, turn your device off until class ends. If you are distracted by social media you are not participating in the class.

Course Requirements

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to punctually attend all class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. This is a Studio course, and great emphasis is placed upon in-class work, feedback and discussion. Under university regulations, students who miss more than 15% of the course hours (2 classes) without prior consultation or documentation (medical or bereavement vetted through student's faculty academic advisor) can be debarred from final studio critiques and examinations. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cut-off and be disbarred. It is very disrespectful to a model to arrive late, or unprepared for life-drawing sessions.
Students arriving unreasonably late (30 minutes or more), or leaving early, will be marked as absent. Students arriving to class without required materials or arriving unprepared for critiques will receive reduced marks. Texting or otherwise using media in class with no relation to a specific activity will result in reduced marks.
- **Materials and Sketchbooks:** It is expected that students will take notes on all lectures, presentations and class discussions. A journal or sketchbook should be brought to every class.
- **Communications:** Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates in the syllabus or announced on OWL. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.
- **Due Dates:** Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates stated in the syllabus unless a previous agreement has been made with the instructor. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a failing grade. Penalty for late work is 2% per day (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day). No late work will be accepted 3 weeks, or later, after the assigned due date (grade = 0). Work handed in on the due date can always be reworked after it has been graded to be reconsidered for a grade.
- Students are expected to spend a minimum of one hour outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.
- Students must adhere to health and safety guidelines in accordance with departmental regulations, failure to comply could result in removal from the course with a failing grade.
- Unless specifically given as a homework project, all assignments must be worked on in class. **Assignments not seen in progress by the instructor will not be accepted for grading,** resulting in a loss of a project's percentage in the year end mark.
- **Critiques:** Critiques are intended for you to respond to your peers' work and to your own and not a platform for the instructor to speak solely. Being comfortable publically analyzing one's own work and the work of others is an important skill that requires practice to develop. If you are uncomfortable with this please let me know so I might help. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL CRITIQUES IS MANDATORY. Missing a critique without prior consultation will automatically result in a 0 (zero) grade for that Project.**
- **Lockers:** (55-60, & 101-108) Students will be assigned shared lockers for use during the term. It is important for students to be respectful of their peers by keeping the work and supplies safe and in an orderly fashion. Students are required to clean out their belongings at the end of the term. The department cannot be held responsible for any materials or work left after this time.

Medical Policy:

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): student.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading]

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.

The instructor will NOT accept any missed assignments, whether totaling more than 10% or less than 10%, unless the student has arranged accommodation through the Dean's Office.

Mental Health:

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

PROJECTS

Studio assignments	90%
Participation & Professionalism	10%

Professionalism: (includes attending and participating in all classes and workshops, coming to class with the materials you need to work that day, cleaning up after yourself and treating other students and their artworks respectfully). Students arriving unreasonably late (30 minutes or more), or leaving early, will not be considered as having participated in a class and will receive an absence for that day.

Students may contact the instructor for additional assistance or critique of work, either in class, or outside class in my office hours, or by appointment.

Unless specifically given as an entirely homework project, all assignments must be worked on in class. Assignments not seen in progress by the instructor will result in a loss of marks.

*Studio assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- innovation and creativity;
- technical proficiency and application of materials/ processes;
- demonstration of a clear understanding of the goals and process of the assignment;
- presentation, organization, and clarity of intent;

WINTER TERM

Studio Assignments:

This is a general overview of the studio assignments for this course. Assignment directives will be detailed in class with key concepts and objectives explained and illustrated through examples.

Project	Value	Due Date
Project 1: Composition & colour	20%	February 5
Project 2: Texture & Expression	20%	February 28th
Project 3: Layer, Illusion & Atmosphere	20%	March 14th
Project 4	20%	April 9th
Watercolour sketchbook	10%	Feb 14/ April 2nd
Professionalism & Participation	10%	

Materials:

Specific materials needed for each in-class assignment will be discussed well in advance so students have enough time to purchase what is required. Specific materials needed will vary from student to student based upon specific responses to class assignments. Please refer to the list below for a basic assortment of painting tools that should be brought to class as needed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students will use only non-toxic materials in the studio; no solvents or solvent-based materials are permitted. ALL aerosol sprays must be used only in department spray booths and only after students have received proper training in its use by the instructor or department technical manager.

Materials:

- Sketchbook for drawing & notes (9" x 12" or 11" x 14" is preferred)
- Watercolour sketchbook (small, preferably 8"x6". Bijan's has a 'Traveller' series whose paper will work well)
- 3-4 store-bought canvases 30 x 30 inches (or larger) or make your own
- 2-3 plywood panels
- 10 sheets Stonehenge or similar paper (140lb)
- Large palette tray or pad at least 11"x17". Can be Pro Art Butcher Tray, or Sta Wet. Do not bring a painting palette with divided sections
- Dish soap or Master Brush cleaner
- Paper towels/rags
- Scissors
- Collage materials
- Glue stick
- Painters tape
- Sandpaper (150-220)
- Small containers

Acrylic Paint: (2oz) except white (5oz)

- Cadmium Red md, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue (red), Pthalo Blue (green shade), Cerulean Blue, Cadmium Yellow pale, Azo Yellow, Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Titanium White, Viridian Green, Quinacridone Violet, Dioxazine Purple
- Containers for water
- Metal palette knives
- Acrylic gesso
- Acrylic matte, gloss and gel medium

Watercolour paint:

- Small w/c kit

Optional Materials:

- Acrylic retarder
- Drawing gum (w/c blocker)
- Bamboo brush holder
- Hammer + nails for hanging work (never use pins or thumb-tacks – they aren't strong enough)
- Apron, painting clothes, latex gloves
- Spray bottle for water (Bijan has 2 pack of 2oz misters)

Brushes:

- Acrylic- selection of #1, #2, #6, #8 round synthetic bristle, #2, #4, #8, flat synthetic bristle, and an assortment of cheap house painting brushes.
- Watercolour- 3 high quality soft synthetic or natural brushes, round #6-8, flat ½ inch, point #2. If you enjoy detail get a smaller #0-1 brush

Instructor may ask for particular additional materials relative to specific assignments.

London's Art Supply Stores:

- Bijan's Art Studio, on Mill Street
519- 439-1340 – on Richmond 6, Wellington 13 or University bus routes going south
- Curry's Art Supplies 9 Southdale Road East, at Wharnccliffe
519-649-4999 - #10 Wonderland bus to Wharnccliffe and Southdale or #2 Dundas,