

Western University  
Department of Visual Arts

COURSE: VAS 2222B Sculpture and Installation I  
TERM: Winter 2018  
TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 2:30  
LOCATION: VAC room 130A

PROFESSOR: Jason Hallows  
OFFICE: VAC room 241B  
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to making art in three dimensions, and the expansive materials, ideas and techniques that contemporary sculpture encompasses (such as architecture, fashion, design, and performance). In this course students will experiment with a variety of materials and fabrication methods, including clay, textiles and wood. Students will learn how to use the tools of the sculpture workshop, as well as basic construction techniques. In addition to technical development, the course will emphasize the exploration of different art making approaches through sculpture, installation and/or performance.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students who successfully complete this course can expect to:

- Develop a familiarity with contemporary sculpture and installation practices, as well as a background of its methods, theoretical motivations and historical influences.
- Integrate a conceptual and/or theoretical framework with technical skills they will acquire in this class, resulting in the communication of ideas through three-dimensional artworks.
- Develop critical thinking skills. Students will learn to engage in the critique of artwork by both peers and contemporary artists in a constructive manner, using the language acquired and developed in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students will complete four assignments and one reading presentation over the course of the semester, in addition to participating in in-class projects and critiques. Only in exceptional circumstances will late assignments be accepted. Under these conditions, late assignments may be submitted no later than one week after the due date, with a 5% grade deduction per day. Extensions will be given only upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented health or bereavement issues.

Once during the semester, students working in a small group will be required to lead the class in a discussion on a selected assigned reading. The presentation will be based on reading questions available on OWL. Further guidelines to this assignment will be provided in class.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PREPARATIONS:**

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually and participate in all class discussions and critiques. **Students are also required to come to class with the necessary materials for each work session.** Failure to meet these expectations will be reflected in their overall participation grade.

Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves after each work session. Failure to do so will be reflected in their overall participation grade.

Students are responsible for following department policy in the installation and take-down of projects. Failure to do so will be factored into your assignment grade.

At the end of each semester, students will be required to take home all of their sculpture projects from the storage area. Failure to do so will result in your projects being disposed of by building staff.

**Students may not submit a project completed for another course, unless special permission is obtained from both of the instructors involved.**

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As this is a studio course, attendance is crucial. Under University regulation, a student who is absent from 15% of class hours may be debarred from final evaluations without prior consultation unless a documented excuse (illness, bereavement, etc.) is provided from the student's academic advisor. If a student consistently misses one hour of a three hour class, h/she will quickly exceed the 15% absence rate, and be debarred from final critiques.

In accordance with University policy, Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures, demonstrations and due dates. With fair notice, course assignments, schedule or due dates may change. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of course changes.

Failure to attend an important demonstration or lecture without due cause **will result in the student researching the information for themselves.**

#### 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.

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>

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>

#### MENTAL HEALTH:

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.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

**Each student must pay a \$70.00 shop fee for this course.** The fee goes towards the purchasing of some assignment materials (such as wood, fabric, clay and metal) and restocking the shop with things like screws, nails, glue, etc., available for use by the students. Please pay the professor directly.

In addition to the shop fee, students will have to supply additional materials for certain assignments.

Students will be expected to come prepared with the specific materials they need to develop their projects.

In general, students will also require the following items:

- Sketchbook
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Tape Measure
- Dust mask rated N95
- Safety glasses
- scissors (of decent quality)

#### EVALUATION:

Three studio assignments: 30% each

Participation: 10% (includes professional conduct, participating in all classes, critiques and reading discussions and coming to class prepared)

Evaluation of participation will depend on attendance and commitment to class discussions and activities, as well as general respect towards fellow students and the workshop. Students arriving unprepared, unreasonably late, or leaving early, will not be considered as having participated in a class.

#### Marking Criteria for each Assignment:

Grades will be determined by the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the assignment objectives and requirements
2. Resolution of the finished work (technical, conceptual and presentation-wise)
3. Evidence of research and development, both materially and conceptually (this will be mostly evident from the Sketchbook)
4. Resourcefulness, ambition and originality

Grades break down as follows:

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|------------|---|
| A+/90-100% | Outstanding. Exceeds expectations and assignment requirements. Demonstrates a clear understanding of, and development beyond, the assignment objectives. Profound originality and thought is evident.           |
| A/80-89%   | Excellent. Exceeds expectations and assignment requirements. Excellent originality and thought is evident.  |
| B/70-79    | Good -Very good. A good grasp of the assignment requirements and objectives is evident, or excellent grasp in one assignment component, balanced with a satisfactory grasp in another aspect of the assignment. |
| C/60-69%   | Satisfactory. A satisfactory grasp of the assignment requirements and   |

	objectives is evident.
D/50-59%	Marginal. A superficial grasp of the assignment requirements and objectives is evident.
F/below 50%	Unsatisfactory. Lack of assignment comprehension and effort is evident.

#### ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN:

Here is a brief overview of the four assignments for this semester. Thorough assignment outlines and instructions will be provided for each project, and will be supplemented with slide lectures and readings to provide context. Instructions will be available in OWL under the 'Resources' folder.

#### 1. 100 Small Works (30%)

Produce 100 sculptures smaller than your fist. The works are to be distinct, made sequentially, and presented in the order they were produced. The purpose here to evolve a set of materials and processes towards an unexpected result – rather than an editioned set.

#### 2. Soft Sculpture, Anti- Form, and the Biomorph (30%)

Working with soft materials (fabric, plastic sheeting, latex, etc.), students will create a biomorphic sculpture larger than themselves. Artists to look at include Claes Oldenberg, Joseph Beuys, Robert Morris, Do Ho Suh, Alison Mitchell, Luanne Martineau, Ernesto Neto, Yayoi Kusama

#### 3. Monstrosity (30%)

“Monsters are variously characterized by accident, indetermination, formlessness; by material incompleteness, categorical ambiguity, ontological instability. One may create monsters through hybridization, hypertrophy, or hypotrophy; through lack, excess, or multiplication; through the substitution of elements, the confusion of species, or the conflation of genders and genres.” Allen S. Weiss

#### READINGS

Throughout the course readings will be assigned relevant to concurrent studio assignments. On scheduled dates students are expected to come prepared, having read the texts and ready to participate in discussion. As stated above, engagement in this part of the course will factor into the substantial Participation and Research grade. All texts will be available via OWL