

Western University
Department of Visual Arts
VAS 3300 001
Advanced Drawing

Term/Session: Fall/Winter 2017/18
Time Tuesday 2:30pm - 6:30pm
Location VAC rms. 206/249
Professor David Merritt: dmerritt@uwo.ca
Office Hours Rm. 233 Wed. 1:30-2:3/ Fri. 9:00-10:00

Course Description:

VAS 3300 is an advanced studio class engaging drawing as a tool of material and conceptual inquiry and as the basis of a studio practice in its own right. Class exercises and assignments will place emphasis on exploratory and research-based approaches to traditional and non-traditional drawing media. Studio assignments will be supported by ongoing readings, lectures, critiques and discussions that increasingly yield to student-directed problem solving.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will gain an understanding of expanded approaches to drawing as a contemporary artist's tool. They will be able to identify distinct ways that drawing can operate practically and critically, and will be able to apply this under

standing in directed and self-directed ways towards the realization of their ideas.

Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and direct their reflections on their work toward exploring and developing further projects.

Autonomy and Professional Capacity

Students will understand a 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:

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.

Studio Work:

Students are expected to work in the studio during scheduled class times, plus an additional 4 hrs/wk out of class. Students are expected to keep a sketchbook/journal and have a minimum of ten new entries ready for presentation each week.

All work for this course must be entirely the student's own and all sources used in written assignments must be properly cited. All course work must be done specifically for this class alone

and be completed punctually by the end of the course.

Electronic Course Resources:

Course readings, project outlines, student grades and other resources will be made available through the VAS 3300 course Owl site (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>). Students must also use the Dropbox feature on this site to submit all electronic documents (reading reports, proposals, etc.) required by the course. For the purposes of student communication and class announcements, all students registered in the course must be accessible through their assigned UWO email address.

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 approval, students may hand in late work with a 2% per day deduction from the assignment. In cases of serious health and bereavement reasons, extensions will be granted upon receipt of official notification from the student's faculty advisor.

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, inventiveness
- Technical development
- Investment in production and resolution of outcome
- Development and maturity of ideas
- Attendance and participation in class activities

Course Materials List:

5.5 x 8.5" (minimum) 7.5 x 10" (maximum) sketchbooks (x2)
 24 x 36" Newsprint pads (x3)
 Drawing board with clips for newsprint
 4 sheets of white mayfair or plainfield paper
 2 sheets of white Stonehenge or comparable quality paper 22 x 30
 1 sheet of white Stonehenge 30" x 44"
 Stonehenge quality paper from roll – 60" x 48" minimum
 Cardboard portfolio case (DIY fine) – 24" x 36"
 Compressed black charcoal
 Black conté - black HB 1 stick,, black 2B 2 sticks
 White conté
 Black conté pencil
 Pencil sharpener with shaving collector
 Graphite pencils 2H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B
 Graphite sticks
 Chalk pastels
 Fine felt tip black markers
 Ball-point pens (Blue, Black, Red)
 Pink, Kneadable and White Vinyl erasers
 Masking tape (green or blue painters tape preferred)
 Ruler
 Scissors

Xacto Knife
 basic transparent watercolour set (tube or cake)
 India or China ink (black), assortment of fine and coarse brushes
 Cloth rags
 Charcoal blending stumps
 workable spray fixative
 General purpose nitrile gloves
 Toolbox for storage (recommended)
 Vapour Mask (for use in fume hood rooms)

First Term Course Grade Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation	10%
Journal Sketchbook Development	15% (mid term)
	15% (end of term)
Research Drawing Project	15%
Landscape/Still Life Project	15%
Drawing Material Project	10%
Field Project	15%
Reading reports/proposals	5%

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.

Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance:

November 30, 2017 – Last day to drop a full year course without academic penalty.

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, 7th ed., p.1170). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html> with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.) This includes presenting the visual or aural work of another creator as your own. Visual or Aural Plagiarism may involve both hand-based media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, as well as digital media such as photography, video and sound. It includes work subsequently manipulated or transferred between different media, as well as self-plagiarism – work submitted for assignments previously produced and graded for another course. Similar to textual plagiarism, all student work involving the visual or aural work of others must be appropriately cited/identified whether in print or orally. Failure to do so will lead to similar academic penalties as those identified in Western’s Academic Calendar.

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.

Mental Wellbeing:

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

Building Access:

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Permission re: Promotion

You grant permission for Western University to reproduce your name, information describing your artwork, representations of your work and any other information you have provided for the purpose of display, promotion and publicity either now or in the future.

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including, without limitation, advertising, display, editorial, packaging, promotion, television, social media, the Department of Visual Arts website, flickr, Twitter, Instagram etc.). Students wishing to not have their work photographed should not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre.

You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

Artwork Installation Liability Release

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. **If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.**

Artwork Removal

Western University reserves the right to dispose of artwork not picked up by April 15th of each year.

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, Professor C. Barteet (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. Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the academic counselors in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities located in IGA Building, Room 1N20.

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services 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 http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html

June 2, 2017

Safety and Maintenance Sheet for Drawing and Foundations Courses

Faculty Responsibilities:

Inform students about safe use of toxic materials and ensure that students are following safe procedures. In case of an emergency, call 911.

Instruct students in the proper use of the spray booth in room 230 if they wish to use aerosol fixatives. (The door of the booth must be closed when in use.)

At the end of each class, return props and drapes to the model closet.

At the end of each class, return space heaters and skeleton to room 206A, and opaque projectors, slide projectors, etc. to room 244. In the case of evening classes, equipment may be stored in your office and returned the next day.

Notify Marlene Jones of any burnt-out bulbs, broken or missing furniture, broken window blinds, etc.

Inform students about general cleanup (including removal of paint, etc., from table surfaces), about storage of work in progress, and removal of completed marked work.

Supervise students' adherence to the maintenance requirements listed below, under the heading "Student Responsibilities".

Student Responsibilities:

When using paint, remember that some pigments are more hazardous than others. Take special care with cadmium colours, cobalt colours, manganese colours, zinc white, flake white, cerulean blue, vermilion red, burnt and raw umber.

Do not eat, drink or smoke while painting since these activities may lead to accidental ingestion of paint.

Use aerosol fixative only in the spray booth in Room 230 or outdoors. Fine mists from these sprays can penetrate deep into the lungs.

Flammable fixatives must be stored in the flammable cabinet located in the spray booth in 230 and not in your locker.

At the end of each class, remove work-in-progress from easels, A-frames and walls, and store these works in your locker or storage racks.

At the end of each class, clean all table surfaces. Throw used jars and other containers, and dirty rags and paper towels, into the garbage containers.

Take home all completed graded work.

Replace drawing boards in the model closet.

Wash your hands thoroughly when you are finished working with dry or wet pigments or inks.

Use a good hand cream after washing with soap to prevent damage to your skin's natural defensive barrier.

Please note: According to University regulations guiding "Laboratory Use," students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grades sent to the Registrar.