

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
Fall 2020 – AH 1644A: Art, Science and Technology

Professor: Prof. Joy James

Email: jjames53@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBD

Graduate Teaching Assistants: To be confirmed.

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to art's histories and the study of visual culture through a focus on the relations between art, science, and technology. Using images, texts, podcasts and videos, we will examine the basis for understanding characteristic ways of knowing generated by various forms of inquiry in the arts and the sciences. This transdisciplinary approach provides unique opportunities to investigate specific material, cultural and conceptual histories. From theory, to history, to criticism and analysis, students will become conversant with the disciplinary differences and similarities intrinsic to the organization of knowledge and the ability to make sense of images and objects within contexts of production, reception and circulation.

Course Delivery Model:

This asynchronous remote-delivery course uses narrated PowerPoint lectures, a series of required readings, podcasts and videos, alongside assignments designed to provide opportunities for understanding and developing ideas concerning the interconnections of art, science, and technology throughout history and around the globe.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to assist students in gaining:

- knowledge about the relation of art to science and technology in a series of diverse historical and contemporary contexts
- familiarity with terminology, methods and theories employed in the study of art and development of the capacity to recognize differences and similarities to those employed in the study of science and technology
- competency in the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge acquired in the course

Required Readings and Podcasts:

Grant Pooke and Diana Newall's *Art History: The Basics* (Routledge 2008)

(Chapters of the above text provide some of the assigned readings. As well, it is a good resource regarding key terms, concepts, theories and methodologies used in the discipline of Art History. Access to this text and all other course required readings and podcasts is provided on the OWL course site. You access this site by using the same ID and password as your UWO email account.

Grade Distribution:

Attendance and Participation	20%	Ongoing
In-Class Test	20%	October 04
Essay Assignment	20%	Due October 25
Final Exam	40%	(3hr December Exam Period)
Total	100%	

Online Groups:

Students will be assigned to individual tutorial groups run by course Teaching Assistants. Participation in the large lecture group and in the tutorial group is virtually supported by the course OWL site that provides access to all course-related information, activities and resources. Remote attendance at weekly lectures and timely completion of weekly online activities is mandatory. Please note: The weekly lecture and adjacent activities are released to students each Monday morning at 10:00am EST. Attendance at each week's lecture, review of required readings and submission of that week's assignments is to be completed by Sunday evening 10:00pm EST.

* Detailed course syllabus will be distributed to students on the first day of class.