

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
**AH 2600G: THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF ART HISTORY AND VISUAL
CULTURE**
Winter 2022

Instructor: Maxwell Hyett

Email: mhyett@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Monday @ 12:30–1:30 PM

Online Check-In: tba

Zoom Meeting ID: tba

Zoom Meeting ID: tba

Time: **Mondays, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Room: **NCB-117** (https://wts.uwo.ca/ctg/classrooms/north_campus_building/index.html)

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton (Neutral) peoples on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to historical and contemporary theories, methods, and practices for the study of art history and visual culture. Students will become familiar with the history of ideas that have shaped art historical investigation and the study of visual culture. Through the examination of a diverse range of individual art works, exhibitions, and visual culture more broadly defined, students will develop theoretically informed approaches to think critically about the many ways in which art and visual culture functions.

PREREQUISITE(S):

Registration in years 2–4 of a Department of Visual Arts Module, or permission of the department.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course it is expected that you will:

- have knowledge of key historical and contemporary theories and practices of art history and visual culture studies
- be familiar with relevant vocabularies
- improve your capacity for critical thinking and writing
- have experience with scholarship of historical depth that investigates the theoretical conversations that occur across time and space

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This is a blended course with both online and in-person components.

Class will be primarily online and consist of weekly pre-recorded virtual lectures and live online meetings. We will meet in-person at key points in the semester to discuss progress on major projects and share our work.

Students are expected to read the required readings, watch all lectures, take notes and complete all assignments.

REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Readings will be posted on the OWL course site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

You can access this site by using the same ID and password as your UWO email account.

OWL

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our course site on OWL

<<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>>. Here is a brief outline of the key online features you will be using:

- **Orientation & Resources:** This section provides you with links and reminders for how to use different citation methods, communicate with your professor and find student resources at Western University.
- **Weekly Lessons:** This succession of tabs (i.e. Week 1, Week 2, etc.) will contain the corresponding week's readings, lecture, quiz and any other corresponding assignment.
- **Announcements:** I will use this to post updates, comments on class matters, and reminders of important dates. Please be sure that you receive OWL announcements and messages from this course to your email inbox.
- **Assignments:** This section provides you with detailed instructions for each of your assignments, due dates and grading weights.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

1. Email: You are free to email me with questions or concerns at any time, but please note that I will not respond to emails 24/7. You should expect to receive a reply within 24 hours of receiving your message, but not on weekends. This means questions about an assignment need to be sent with enough advance to receive an answer before it is due. *Email is best for short questions, clarifications and sharing material.*

2. Office hours: For the duration of our respective office hours I will be prepared to chat with you on Zoom. That said, you will need to email me beforehand and arrange to meet, either during these office hours or we can arrange another time. *Video chatting on Zoom is best for discussions and larger issues not easily covered in emails.*

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your assignments as a Microsoft Word document (.doc, .docx). Most writing software has this capability. You can download the whole Microsoft suite from the home page of Microsoft 365 through your student email. Assignments should be

written in full sentences, double spaced and with proper citation and formatting

All materials will be submitted through OWL and must be work done entirely by the student *expressly for this course*. Please consult the Writing Centre if you have any

confusion regarding definitions of academic honesty within University practices. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of policies governing academic honesty and to be clear on what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating. Writing Support Centre,

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If for any reason you cannot hand in an assignment by the specified due date please anticipate and discuss the matter with me as soon as possible. Late assignments are typically subject to a 10% penalty per week. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to hand in all late assignments.

If you are unable to meet assignment deadlines for medical, religious or extra-ordinary circumstances please inform me as soon as possible and refer to the 'Academic Consideration' section of at the end of this syllabus, under 'Policies.'

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCES

Students may report up to two 48-hour absences (in a given September-April academic period) for which they are seeking academic consideration (eg. no late penalties for assignments, alternative arrangements for missed assignments). The self-reporting portal may not be used for consideration for work worth more than 30% or for final exams or mid-terms scheduled during the exam period.

CITATION STYLE GUIDELINES

The Department of Visual Arts adheres to Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. Please refer to the Writing Support Centre, <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>, or visit these links:

1. <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
2. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Article Summaries 15% (2 x 7.5%) January 10 and 17

You are required to write two summaries due on Weeks 2 and 3. Summaries should be a maximum of 500 words or 2 pages double-spaced. In each summary you should focus on one key term used by the author(s), providing one direct quote with proper citation that helps to clarify the key term as well as your own discussion of its significance. The summaries must be written in paragraph form and submitted before the beginning of the class in which the text is discussed.

Weekly Quizzes 20% cumulatively Ongoing

Classes will be followed by short quizzes on the lectures. The quiz will be available immediately following the class for one week only. *If you do not write the quiz during this window you will receive a 0%.* It is advisable to do these as early as possible.

Short Essay 25% February 14

For this assignment you will write a 3–5 page essay that focuses on one artwork by an artist of your choosing that reflects or explores one key term from the class readings. You are welcome to choose any work of art, but it is strongly recommended you discuss your choice with your instructor. Remember that it is your responsibility to demonstrate how the key term of your choosing is related to the artwork. You must use a minimum of one course reading and provide one direct quote with proper citation.

Final Essay 30% March 28

For this assignment you will write a 4–8 page essay that focuses on one artist or art historian that explores a key idea from the course. You are welcome to choose any artist or art historian, but you must choose someone different than who you wrote on for your Short Essay unless you have received your professor's approval. It is your responsibility to demonstrate their methodology through a direct analysis of two or three artworks. You must use a minimum of two course readings that you quote directly and cite properly.

Participation 10% Ongoing

Participation is a very important part of class. You must be prepared to engage in course material, which includes readings, lectures, and assignments as well as the feedback you receive. Participation is not simply 'showing up,' but a concerted effort to contribute and respond to the course.