SA2560B Explorations 3: Making Art with Accessible Technology

Course Description

An introduction to making art using readily available technology, tools and materials. Students will produce creative 2-D, 3-D and time-based projects exploring the possibilities of various accessible media technologies, including digital photography, video, animation, freeware, 3D printing and creative construction techniques. The fundamental skills and historical/contemporary contexts of media art will be addressed through studio projects, lectures, screenings, workshops and reading discussions.

Over the course of the semester, students will develop a project across different media forms. We will follow an experimental structure this term in which students will be asked to create, recreate and remake their work from various perspectives and mediums. Through the exploration of different possible manifestations, students will gain a greater understanding of and facility in contemporary studio practice. Students are expected to work independently outside of class time to produce their projects.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and apply the fundamentals of art making, including the design principles of image and object construction.

2. Identify and apply the production processes of media art, using a variety of different technologies to fully explore and work through one project idea.

3. Acquire and employ technical skills in digital media and three-dimensional construction in order to develop creative projects.

4. Develop a vocabulary to discuss and analyze artworks by gaining familiarity with relevant historical and contemporary art contexts, and so advance their ability to conceptually synthesize theory and practice.

Grading and Evaluation:
Student performance will be based on an evaluation of:

1. Participation and attendance in class activities, active engagement in class discussions and critiques, including any online discussions assigned.
2. Innovation, determination and resolution in studio work as demonstrated in class projects and assignments. Grades for studio assignments are based on 5 categories: creativity, conceptual development, technical execution, effort/ambition, and resolution.
3. A demonstrated understanding of relevant issues and theoretical problems introduced in the class, and the ability to integrate them into studio work and assignments.
4. Development of skills and ideas over the term.

Assignments: The creative projects for this course will develop as a consecutive process, each one realized in relationship to the previous. Assignment details will be handed out in class and will be available on OWL. Digital assignment files should be submitted through OWL. Each assignment will have an OWL Assignment submission tab. Each student has their own dropbox on the class Owl site for file backup. Hard copies should be submitted in class to the professor. All files **must** have your name on them, **clearly label** everything, digital (e.g., JDoeAssign1.jpeg) and hard copy. VoiceThread will be the system we use for online viewing of specific student projects.

1. ***Line exercises*** 15%
   - **A)** 3 pencil and pen sketches of environment – in-class, **Jan 19**
   - **B)** 3-D paper construction of best line drawing from exercise 1A, submit documentation (3 photos of various views of sculpture). Due: **Jan. 26**
   - **C)** light and photograph the 3-d construction (photo of exercise 1B). Stage 3 different lighting set ups/angles of the 3-D construction. Upload the best 3 digital photo files onto owl and also upload your best one to the class site (voicethread) for everyone to view. Print the best photo on paper minimum size of 8" x10" or larger preferably. Upload 1-page, typed, double-spaced, hard copy assessment of your photograph and process. Bring both the construction and the photo to class for viewing. Due: **Feb. 2**

2. ***Historical Visualization: Digital model using Sketch-Up*** 18%
   Students will develop and implement a virtual plan for a three-dimensional set that will serve as the backdrop for their subsequent creative projects. This set is to be based on their research into a historical event.
   2a) Research a historical event (can be current) that resonates with you and your family history. The research should be documented as a 2-page double spaced paper that describes the event, and the reason for the choice and relevant notes, sketches (digital or on paper), include research citations. Due: **Feb. 16**
   2b) (re) create the setting for it using the free 3-D application sketch-up. Hand in 3 views of the environment as digital image files to your dropbox on Owl. Due: **March 1**

3. ***Surreal group*** 8%
   Group 3-D sculpture: using elements of 3 of the group members' sketch-up sets (decide as a group which elements to use and how to combine them), design a surreal object to be printed on the 3-D printer. We will be scheduling the 3-D printing utilizing the department's 3-D printer. Groups of 5 will be assigned. There will be some class-time for this production.
   Due: **Mar 8**

4. ***Physical model: Build a set*** 15%
   Drawing from their digital sketch, each student will construct a real world model of their virtual plan using basic construction techniques and readily available materials. Upload images of your project to owl that document the project from a number of angles so we can see the entire construction. Include a title, and lost time period and location, dimensions and materials used.
   Due: **March 8**

5. ***The Photo-play*** 12%
   Students will then make a series of photographs of their built set. Minimum of 3, maximum of 8, one must include the student in the scene inserted digitally or as a projection or as a cut out placed into the scene and re-photographed (or any other creative manifestation of yourselves you can invent). Print your best one with you in it and bring to class for March 15. Submit the digital images to Owl. Include a brief description of you process and how your presence in the scene changes the narrative (2 pages, double spaced. .pdf or .doc).
   Due: **March 15**

6. ***The Movie*** 22%
   Make a video/animation with audio. Using the set as a backdrop, students will develop a short video or animation that explores the aesthetic principles and creative approaches covered in the course. This could be developed as a narrative or documentary project. Due: **April 5**

7. ***Attendance/Participation*** 10%

Studio assignments are graded on the following criteria:

technical requirements
technical integration with the idea
degree of inventiveness and ambition of assignments
understanding of the theoretical implications of the work
the progress of conceptual development and skills over the semester

Written work will be graded for grammar, style, research and conceptual development.

Required readings: Course readings will be available on-line @ owl. Check the weekly schedule for details.

Rules to know ◆

◆**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**: **Do not** hand in work you created in or for another class, or work done by someone else (including words, ideas, images, or sounds). This is considered plagiarism, a serious scholastic offense resulting in an F on the assignment or in the course or ultimately in expulsion. For more information see the University's document on plagiarism in the undergraduate student handbook. If you use any material you did not create yourself you are responsible for **citing it** appropriately. In the case of a media work this means you must acknowledge all stills, video/film clips and audio, including music. If you intend to have your piece broadcast, you would need to get signed contracts and releases for all material included and for all the identifiable people who appear on screen. For more information regarding plagiarism see the U.W.O. Calendar.
AI Policy: Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately **attributing all** sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' **own** thoughts and **independent studio** and written work.

◆ Attendance is mandatory for all screenings, workshops, reading discussions and lectures. In the case of group assignments, **you** are responsible for keeping in contact with your group outside of class time in order to complete all required assignments. You are responsible for following up on any missed class material. You may contact the TA for details. When emailing your professor or TA, include the class number in the subject heading.

◆ Missing class time without proper (medical or other) documentation will have a negative impact on your final grade. Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation must be submitted to the Academic Counseling office of a student's home Faculty.

◆ Being consistently late for class will be penalized. If you are more than 20 minutes late for class, you will be marked as absent.

• Refrain from texting or using email during class time. Since we only have 3 hours each week, put the phones away!

• All assignments must be completed; failure to do so will result in an automatic F for the course.

• Assignments and papers not directly handed to me must be uploaded to owl assignments or your dropbox on the class site. Each assignment must be clearly labeled with student name, assignment, e.g., JDoe_assign1_draw.jpeg. For documents use pdf or doc format. Owl has had issues with large video files. If you are having trouble uploading your video work to owl, hand it in on a USB stick, or contact your Prof. so we can find another file transfer app to assist us. As a backup for video submissions, you can create an account on Vimeo and upload here and submit the address to the assignments area.

• Late assignments will lose 5 points for each day late. Assignments more than 7 days late will not be accepted, unless there is communication from academic accommodation (student counsellors).

• You must keep a **copy** of all submitted projects/papers. **Back up** all of your digital projects (often). In case of lost materials, **you are responsible** for providing a replacement.

OWL: All students will have access to the OWL course site: https://owl.uwo.ca/

NOTES AND SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

Prerequisite Checking:

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). 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.

Attendance: Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments.
Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero)

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.
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced

gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, here. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Electronic Devices: During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. Unless explicitly noted otherwise**, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures** – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change): 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.

Academic Consideration: The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education (Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities).

The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic consideration for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Dean's Office of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic consideration shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s).

Academic consideration may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic consideration shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill.")

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic consideration. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Documentation from Student Health Services At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Health and Wellness: Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/.
If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Support Services:
There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
Registrarial Services http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
Student Support Services https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login
Services provided by the USC http://westernusc.ca/services/
Academic Support and Engagement http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Academic Sanctions: In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

The above prohibitions shall be in force until such time as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the satisfaction of the University.
http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

Additional Course Material Request Policy For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/

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.

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

Gender Neutral Bathrooms:
There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre (JLVAC). One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is a list of inclusive washrooms at Western: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.
Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

Visual Arts Studio Grade Descriptors:

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.