



We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land remains home to diverse Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to our society.

Course: [SA 2602A: Studio Seminar I](#)

Term: [Fall 2023](#)

Course Description:

SA 2602 is a studio and theory course required for students taking an Honors Specialization in Studio Arts. The course focuses on developing an informed, self-directed studio practice in the context of an introduction to the methods and practices of professional artists. Structured around workshops, seminars, research presentations and critiques, this course is intended to assist students in beginning preparations for the portfolio review required for admission into Practicum (the BFA Capstone course).

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge of Methodologies

- Students will understand the critical and creative potential of artmaking processes, identify various ways artworks operate critically, and apply this understanding to the development of self-directed projects.

Application of Knowledge

- Students will use their capacities with selected artists' materials as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works, understand the potential viability of their works, and utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects to create a body of work.

Communication Skills

- Students will begin to be able to communicate in writing and orally assess their own and other artists' work across a range of media, utilizing appropriate analytic vocabulary and relating this work to relevant art and culture.

Autonomy and Professional Capacity

- Students will be able to identify a range of research and creative problem-solving strategies relevant to producing artwork. They will identify various opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting. They will have a foundational understanding of the routes available to advance their studies and/or professional practice and the appropriate means by which artists communicate with their peers, advance their careers, etc.

Assignment Assessment:

<p>Studio Project(s)</p> <p>Project 1 (or Phase 1) - 10% Project 2 (or Phase 2) - 20% Project 3 (or Phase 3) - 30%</p>	<p>Due Oct 04 Due Nov 08 Due Dec 06</p>	<p>60%</p>
<p>Art Review</p>	<p>Due Oct 11</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>Reflection</p>	<p>Due Oct 25</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>Research</p>	<p>Due Nov 29</p>	<p>20%</p>

Assignment Description(s):

1. Studio Project(s):

Over this semester you will develop your independent art project(s). This ultimately means you can make work about what you want and how you want so long as it doesn't harm or threaten anyone's health or safety. You also may work in any medium(s) you like. However, it is your responsibility to do whatever training, tutorials and/or skills development you require. Please contact our department's various technicians if you need to use the workshop facilities immediately. The timetables are posted outside all classrooms, studios, shops and offices. You may access the building and most facilities around the classes scheduled on these timetables.

You have the option of creating 1 - 3 art projects.

Ex 1. You may have one strong idea or theme you want to explore for the entire semester, and it makes more sense to conceive of each critique as a time to present different stages or phases of a single project.

Ex 2. You may not be able or want to focus on a single idea or theme this semester. Instead, you want to use this class to explore many ideas or themes. It makes sense for you to create a separate project for each critique.

Whatever you choose, you **MUST** show something **NEW** and **DIFFERENT** for each critique. If you choose to create a single art project, I must see it develop, change and evolve. Failure to show up to critique with an unchanged or unfinished project will result in an incomplete mark. Treat critiques as if they are exams.

2. Research:

The research, effort and work that goes into developing your art project over the next several months will be self-directed. Furthermore, it must be documented/recorded/evidenced in your research dossier. What is research? Depending on your practice and medium of choice, research can be practice, tests, rehearsals, field trips, location scouting, interviews, reading essays and books, watching films, participating in workshops, skill development, training, etc.

Your dossier may take up any form. Literally - it can be a sketchbook, zines, slides, film strips, poetry, a blog, a maquette, prototypes, 3D models, moulds, drafts, sheet music, digital music that has not been mixed or mastered, floorplans, documentation of dress rehearsals, screen-tests, mock-ups etc. It can be a combination of all or any of the above. The dossier is a document/record/evidence of everything that led to your finished art project(s) creation. This module is also, ultimately, about accountability in this course. It proves you didn't just create your assignment at the last minute.

3. Art Review:

Art Review must be submitted online. Art Review must be double-spaced, 1 - 3 pages (or 500 - 750 words). This does not include a Works Cited page. A Works Cited page is not necessary and pretty rare regarding reviews. However, sometimes critics will include citations or poetic quotes in a review. If you take a creative licence this way, please cite properly. I encourage you to explore exhibition reviews in various art magazines or newspapers to help improve your writing. Your review may be on an exhibition, play, installation or performance. The review must be on an artwork you have witnessed in person. Reviews of films, EPs and albums are not permitted. You will find a sub-folder on [OneDrive](#) full of examples of exhibition reviews to motivate and encourage you. Some of these examples will be from former anonymous students. They are all graded differently so that you can see the difference between a C and an A paper.

Here are some Contemporary Art publications with art and exhibition review sections: [Polyester Zine](#), [CRACK](#), [Another Gaze](#), [BOMB](#), [\[ArtForum\]](#), [Frieze](#), [Aperture](#), [C Magazine](#), [esse](#), [Studio Magazine](#), [Border Crossings](#), [Art in America](#), [Flash Art](#), [Interview](#), [DAZED](#), [i-D](#), [Hyper-allergic](#), and [ArtNews](#). Here are some local, national and international newspapers with art and exhibition review sections: [London Free Press](#), [Toronto Star](#), [The Globe and Mail](#), [The Washington Post](#), [LA Times](#), [NY Times](#), and [The Guardian](#).

4. Reflection

Reading Reflection must be submitted online. Reflection must be double-spaced, 1 - 3 pages (or 500 - 750 words). Your writing should engage critically and thoughtfully with the subject matter, issues, content and themes we have discussed throughout the semester. You may reflect on the assigned readings and the discussions we have had in class. Generally, reflections are more diaristic, personal and generative than a formal review.

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to have an active official UWO email address (communications outside of class will be done via email).
- Students are expected to do the assigned readings/viewings/recordings/etc. and come to class prepared to discuss them.
- Students are expected to contribute to the class in a thoughtful, timely, informed, focused, sensitive, and respectful manner.
- Students are expected to have an insatiable curiosity and a desire to learn, research, experiment, and create. Attendance:
 - Attendance, punctuality, and preparedness for a class are critical.
 - University regulations stipulate that students who miss 15% of their classes without written corroboration for health or bereavement can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or critiques.

Course Materials:

This combined studio and theory seminar course is required for Honours Specialization in Studio Arts students. The focus of the course is the development of an independent and self-directed studio practice in the context of an introduction to the methods and practices of professional artists.

You will need a notebook and/or computer.

All students are required to develop 1 - 2 projects over the semester. Projects may touch on any theme, concept or idea that you wish. This project may be any medium and scale you wish.

You are responsible for acquiring and/or purchasing all materials necessary for completing your assignments this year.

You are responsible for inquiring and/or researching all health and safety protocols regarding the installation and presentation of your project for midterm and final critiques.

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 discussion, students may hand in late work with a 2% per business/weekday deduction from the assignment. Extensions will be given on a case-by-case basis. Typically, this would be upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented severe health and bereavement reasons. Communicate with me!

Prerequisite Checking:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have completed all course prerequisites and have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for 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.

AI Policy:

In this course, students can use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research. These tools enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their ideas, arguments, and perspectives. 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 student's own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking and independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

Plagiarism:



Plagiarism, 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 another creator’s visual or aural work as your own. Visual or Aural Plagiarism may involve hand-based media, such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, and digital media, such as photography, video and sound. It includes work subsequently manipulated or transferred between different media and self-plagiarism – work submitted for previously produced and graded assignments 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.

Student Conduct:

All students will conduct themselves consistently 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 University community members and are expected to act responsibly 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 schedule an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Academic Sanctions:

In non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student cannot:

- a) view grades;
- b) register for future courses;
- c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma;
- d) obtain admission or readmission.

The above prohibitions shall be in force until indebtedness to the University, including payment of a 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=#SubHeading169>

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.

Students who require Academic Accommodation for the course material can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that medical illness may occasionally impair students' ability to meet their academic responsibilities. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation 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.

As soon as possible, documentation shall be submitted to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the requested accommodation. These documents will be retained in the student's file and held in confidence following the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy.

Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, the Dean's Office shall determine appropriate academic accommodation in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extending deadlines, waiving attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation 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 accommodation should provide notification and documentation before due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counseling office promptly.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required when a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained during 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

Students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services during illness. Request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner during this appointment.

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 impossible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request sufficient documentation to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility.

Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course. A student seeking academic accommodation for work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course-specific instructions provided on the course outline. Instructors will use good judgment in arranging accommodation and ensure fair treatment for all students. Instructors must indicate how they will deal with work worth less than 10% of the total course grade on the course outline.

In particular, instructors must indicate whether medical documentation will be required for absences, late assignments or essays, missed tests, laboratory experiments or tutorials, etc. Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office, and the Dean's office will determine whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy, instructors may not collect medical documentation.

In all cases where accommodation is sought for work totalling 10% or more of the final grade in a course, students will be directed to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office.

Students whose instructor has denied accommodation may appeal this decision to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

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)

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and give reasonable notice, in writing before the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counselor if their course requirements are affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Electronic Devices:



During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so or explicit permission from the course instructor, you may not use any electronic devices during any tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

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. Occasionally, 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 10:00 p.m. each night, Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 pm-5:00 pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. 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 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 worldwide license 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 not to 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 of 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 transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Center, you accept all risks 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.

Removal:

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

Support Services:

There are various support services around campus. These include, but are not limited to:

Registrar 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 in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options for obtaining 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.

Health and Wellness:

Western offers various counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend feel overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health, 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 you live healthily while pursuing your degree. For example, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Center to support physical activity. 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, refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options to obtain help.

Gender-Neutral Bathrooms:

There are two gender-neutral bathrooms in the 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 the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO:

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 need the 3rd-floor gender-neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

Optional Policy As Required:

If you are giving multiple-choice exams, Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Land Acknowledgement:

<https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>

Studio Art Grade Descriptors:

90-100 (Outstanding, A+) - The studio work shows significant originality and high 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 the process and outcome of the studio production are exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A) - The studio work shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is 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 the studio production process and outcome are 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 assignment's parameters and an excellent attempt to respond creatively. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production appropriate to the course's level. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with the process and outcome of the studio production is excellent.

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 depth and/or breadth, referencing appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with the studio production process and outcome are 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 fundamental 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 the studio production process and outcome are 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 does not meet the minimal



requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with the studio production process and outcome are unacceptable.