



## CREATIVITY STUDIO DH2127B

### 1. Course Information

#### CREATIVITY STUDIO DH2127B

WINTER 2023

Lectures: Mondays, 15:30-16:20 at SSC 2028

Labs: Thursdays at UC 1110, Sec. 1 at 10:30, Sec. 2 at 11:30, Sec. 3 at 12:30.

Office Hours with TAs: Online, unless specified otherwise. Contact your TA at their email address.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A Sketch Notebook 11.5x17.5 cm, blank pages.
- Several pencils HB2.
- Readings to be provided through Western Libraries.
- Stable internet connection.
- Computer with working microphone and/or webcam.

### 2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Juan Luis Suárez	<a href="mailto:jsuarez@uwo.ca">jsuarez@uwo.ca</a>	UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
Emilio Calderón	<a href="mailto:ecaldern@uwo.ca">ecaldern@uwo.ca</a>	UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
María Paula Espejo	<a href="mailto:mespejo@uwo.ca">mespejo@uwo.ca</a>	UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
Amina Wasif	<a href="mailto:awasif@uwo.ca">awasif@uwo.ca</a>	UC1304	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:@uwo.ca)) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

### 3. Suggested (Weekly) Learning Journey

Monday: Lecture with Hand Practice within Lecture time.

Tuesday: Reflective Practice: Forum's Questions by Leaders.

Wednesday: Reflective Practice: Forum's Answers by Learners.

Thursday: Lab with Design Challenge within Lab time.

Friday: Readings for following week.

Sat/Sun: Do nothing.

### 4. Delivery Mode

In this **blended course**, you will learn and practice how to train and enhance your creativity by putting into practice a method of Digital Craftmanship supported by an understanding of creativity as craftmanship of the self, and a philosophy of the digital condition that highlights the importance of doing, making and creating values at the intersection of the analogue and the digital: the body is the epicenter of all human experience.

In-person: Lectures on Mondays.

Online: Reflective Practices (OWL Forums) on Tuesdays/Wednesdays.

In-person: Labs on Thursdays.

Online: Assignments.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to understand the fundamental concepts of Digital Craftmanship and apply the learnings from these concepts **to your own personal and professional life** through a set of *Reflective Practices (Leaders & Learners)* carried out weekly. Also weekly, you will work on a diversity of Design Challenges that will help you translate those concepts into skills to craft your own self and compose your life at the boundary of the digital/analogue. In the middle of the term, you will have the chance to pause and think about your personal and professional life by endeavouring in the elaboration of your own Personal Business Plan. At the end of the term, all these activities come together in your final work, the *Tool Kit for Digital Craftmanship*, where you will learn how to synthesize and compile your learnings and acquired skills into your own workbook.

### Learning Outcomes / Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have acquired:

- Knowledge:
  - Some concepts of creativity, craftmanship, and the digital.
  - Foundations of the human experience.
  - Understanding of relations between the way the digital is designed and your human experience.
  - Authors and creators who have delved into the former.
- Values:
  - Identify the values that creative individuals practice.
  - Practice the values inherent to craftmanship across domains.
  - Identify the values to practice when the environment is within us.
- Skills:
  - Hand and paper-based Note Taking and Sketching.
  - How to deal with Design Challenges.
  - Business Plan Development.
  - How to Argue correctly by designing proper questions and answers.
  - How to use (and not) Open AI tools to harness human creativity.

## 6. Important Dates

- Lectures begin: January 9, 2023
- Reflective Pieces (Leaders & Learners) on OWL begin: January 17, 2023, and finish April 3, 2023
- Spring Reading Week: February 18 – February 26, 2023
- Last day to drop a second-term half course: March 7
- Classes end: April 10, 2023

- **Due Dates for Special Projects:**
  - **Personal Business Plan: March 21, 11:55pm.**
  - **Toolkit for Digital Craftmanship: April 5, 11:55pm.**

### **Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## **7. Lectures (in-Person)**

Lecture sessions have two components:

- Lecture and Dialogue on Reading Materials led by Professor of an estimated 20' duration.
  - Goal: explain and discuss main concepts and applications of the weekly materials.
- Hand Note Taking and Sketching Session by Students of an estimated 20' duration.
  - Goal: hand-write three main ideas + sum up in a sketch.
  - Week 1 through Week 10: Hand-in the Notebook before the end of class.
  - Each Week of Notebook work is worth 1 point towards the Final Grade, up to 8 points.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Materials</b>
J9	Introduction to the Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture</li> </ul>
J16	Nature and Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.N. Whitehead. "Lecture I." <i>Nature and Life</i>. The Cambridge Miscellany XIII. Cambridge 1934, pp. 7-49.</li> </ul>
J23	The Embodied Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antonio Damasio. <i>Feeling and Knowing: Making Minds Conscious</i>. Vintage 2022, pp. 3-40.</li> <li>• Antonio Damasio. <i>The Strange Order of Things</i>. Pantheon, 2018, pp. 117-142.</li> <li>• Bessel van der Kolk. <i>The Body Keeps the Score</i>. Penguin 2015, pp. 265-278.</li> </ul>
J30	The Rhythms of Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel Carson. <i>Silent Spring</i>. Mariner 1962, pp. 1-13 and 277-297.</li> <li>• James Rebanks. <i>The Shepherd's Life</i>. Anchor 2016, pp. xiii-xxii; 2-5; 171-177.</li> <li>• James Rebanks. <i>Pastoral Song</i>. HarperCollins 2020, pp. 84-86; 152-156; 173-184; 216-217; 234-285.</li> </ul>
F6	Immortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.N. Whitehead. "Immortality." <i>The Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead</i>, ed. by Paul Arthur Schilpp, Second Edition. (Open Court Publishing Co., La Salle, Ill., 1951), pp. 682-700).</li> </ul>
F13	Interruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Catherine Bateson. <i>Composing a Life</i>. Grove 1989, pp. 1-34; 35-42; 232-241.</li> </ul>
F27	Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haruki Murakami. <i>What I Talk About When I Talk About Running. A Memoir</i>. Street Books 2008, pp. v-viii; 3-23; 24-37; 69-87.</li> </ul>
M6	Craftsmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Sennett. <i>The Craftsman</i>. Yale UP 2008, pp. 19-52; 53-80.</li> <li>• Ian Brown. "How Do You Pick the Perfect Concert Piano?" <i>The Globe and Mail</i> 23 Dec 2022; <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/article-koerner-hall-concert-grand-piano-royal-conservatory/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/article-koerner-hall-concert-grand-piano-royal-conservatory/</a></li> </ul>
M13	Friction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Wiener. <i>The Uncanny Valley: A Memoir</i>. MCD 2020, pp. TBA.</li> </ul>

M20	Curation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonnie Kemske. “.” <i>Kintsugi. The Poetic Mend</i>. Herbert Press 2021, pp. 11-34; 137-153.</li> <li>Pui Ying Kwan. “Exploring Japanese Art and Aesthetic as Inspiration for Emotionally Durable Design.” <a href="https://www.designedasia.com/2012/Full_Papers/Exploring%20Japanese%20Art%20and%20Aesthetic.pdf">https://www.designedasia.com/2012/Full_Papers/Exploring%20Japanese%20Art%20and%20Aesthetic.pdf</a></li> <li>Jean Keller, Eva Feder Kittay. “Feminist Ethics of Care.” <i>The Routledge Companion to Feminist Philosophy</i>. Online via Western Libraries.</li> </ul>
M27	Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helga Nowotny. <i>An Orderly Mess</i>. CEU Press 2017, pp. 15-36.</li> <li>Hartmut Rosa. <i>Alienation and Acceleration</i>. NSU Press 2013, pp. 13-33.</li> <li>Gilles Deleuze. <i>Bergsonism</i>. Zone Books 1988. “Chapter 2: Duration as Immediate Data.”</li> </ul>
A3	Digital Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaclav Smil. <i>Grand Transitions</i>. Oxford UP 2021, pp. 1-24.</li> <li>Thomas Haigh. “Introducing the Early Digital.” <i>Exploring the Early Digital</i>. Springer 2019, pp 1-16. Online via Western Libraries.</li> <li>The Ezra Klein Show. A Skeptical Tale on the A.I. Revolution. Jan. 6, 2023. Podcast available on <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-gary-marcus.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-gary-marcus.html</a> and podcasts platforms.</li> <li>Gary Marcus and Ernest Davis. <i>Rebooting AI. Building Artificial Intelligence We Can Trust</i>. Vintage 2020, pp. 180-199.</li> </ul>
A10	Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readings TBA</li> </ul>

## 8. Reflective Practices, or Forums (on-Line)

- How do the weekly *Reflective Pieces (Leaders & Learners)* work?:
  - Check OWL to learn the Lab section you are in and your TA’s name.
  - It starts on Week 2 (Jan. 17) and ends on Week 11 (April 5).
  - It runs every week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Every Lab section works separately on OWL forums.
  - This is an *alternate week* activity:
    - Every week YOU alternate as Leader or Learner. For example, if you are a Leader in the first week, then you will be a Learner in the second week. Your TA will tell you during the first week of the course whether you start this activity as a Leader or a Learner. After the first week, it is your responsibility to know which role you are playing every week.
    - Leaders post questions related to the Lecture and Materials of that week. Learners answer those questions using the Materials of the week.
  - Leaders post questions to the forum before Tuesday at 11:55pm EST. Questions posted after this date/time will be declared invalid and marked as 0.
  - Learners answer questions on the forum before Wednesday at 11:55pm EST.
  - Leaders post 1 question to each of the forum’s categories. Learners answer 1 question to each of the forum’s categories:
    - Facts: these questions relate to important facts about the individual, their business, their ideas, the conception of creativity; these facts must be relevant to better understand the typo of creative we are studying

and they should not simple facts such as where the person was born, etc.

- Application: these questions refer to the real life application of the materials studied during the week as they are transferred to your own lives, work, plans, etc. They must be based and argued from the materials. Minimum word count for questions is 100 words and for answers is 250 words.
- Creation: these questions create a possible scenario in which you or someone else will use what you have learned from the materials. Minimum word count for questions is 100 words and for answers is 250 words.
- Other rules:
  - Leaders cannot repeat questions already posted, and Learners cannot answer questions already answered by other Learners, unless the answer is substantially different from previous ones.
  - Questions and Answers about Facts are worth a maximum of .5.
  - Questions and Answers about Application are worth a maximum of 1.
  - Questions and Answers about Creation are worth a maximum of 1.5. A detailed Rubric for this activity will be posted on OWL.
  - The best 8 marks will be used to calculate the Final Grade.

## 9. Labs (in-Person)

- Design Challenges:
  - Labs meet in-person on Thursdays in UC1110, at 10:30 (Sec 1), 11:30 (Sec. 2), 12:30 (Sec. 3).
  - Labs start with warm-up exercises.
  - Then, you will be given a small Design Challenge that you will have to solve using the knowledge acquired during the week.
  - The Solutions to the Design Challenge will be handed in before the end of the Lab session.
  - Labs start in Week 2, on January 19, and end in Week 10, on March 30.
  - Each of the 6 Design Challenges is worth a maximum of 5 points towards the Final Grade.
- Personal Business Plans (PBP):
  - Personal Business Plans will be prepared in Labs during Weeks 5, 6, 7, and 8 using your Notebooks.
  - At the end of each session, you will submit your work. Each of the four Lab submission is worth 3 points towards your Final Grade.
  - After completing the fourth session on your PBP you will have a week to finalize the work and move your sketches/notes/research to a digital canvas for the final version of the PBP. Submission of the final version of the PBP will be via OWL.
  - The final version of the PBP is worth 10 points towards your Final Grade.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
January 19	Design Challenge 1
January 22	Design Challenge 2
February 2	Design Challenge 3
February 9	Personal Business Plan

February 16	Personal Business Plan
March 2	Personal Business Plan
March 9	Personal Business Plan
March 16	<i>Due Date: Personal Business Plan</i> Design Challenge 4
March 23	Design Challenge 5
March 30	Design Challenge 6

## 10. Assignments (x2)

- Personal Business Plans (PBP):
  - 4 Lab submissions (Notebook) due at the end of each Lab session: Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8.
  - Final digital version submission: March 30, 11:55pm, via OWL.
- Toolkit for Digital Craftsmanship:
  - Digital Format.
  - Submission: April 10, 11:55pm, via OWL.

## 11. Extra-work for Extra-marks

- If you want to earn up to 10 points for your Final Grade, you can write an essay, or take a video, or shoot two Tik-Toks applying your knowledge of Digital Craftsmanship to analyze the creative lives of the fashion industry highlighted in *Kingdom of Dreams* (Crave TV).
  - You will need to be approved by your TA to do this.
  - Latest date to be approved by your TA is March 20.
  - A rubric will be provided only after being approved.
  - Final Submission: April 10, via email to your TA.

## 12. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- Hand Note Taking/Sketching:
  - Notebook handed in, end of Lecture: 8%
- Reflective Pieces (Forums): 24% (3% x 8 weeks)
  - on OWL
  - Topics included: those covered in weekly Lecture and Materials
- Lab Sessions:
  - 5 sessions x 5 points 25%
- Personal Business Plan: 28%
  - 4 sketches x 2 points 8%
  - Final digital version 20% Due: Oct. 21, 11:55pm, via OWL
- Tool Kit of Digital Craftsmanship: 15% Due: April 10, 11:55pm, via OWL

### Course-specific policies/conditions

- **A minimum of SIX participations in the weekly Reflective Pieces (Forums), with a minimum grade of 50% in each of them, is required to PASS this course.**
- **Lectures are live events. No powerpoints will be posted online for this course.**

- **Notebook work (Hand note taking (Lectures); Design Challenges (Labs); Personal Business Plans (Labs)) will be accepted only at the end of the respective Lecture or Lab session. If you are not able to attend, please check the policy for making up missed work in Section 13 of this syllabus.**
- **Reflective Pieces submitted after the respective deadline will not be graded.**
- **For the Final digital version of the PBP and the Tool Kit for Digital Craftsmanship, late submissions will incur in the following penalties:**
  - **15 minutes after the deadline: under the instructor's discretion.**
  - **Between 16 minutes and 23hrs and 45mins after deadline: 10%.**
  - **Between 24 hours and 48 hours: 20%.**
  - **After 48 hours: submission will not be graded.**

### **OWL**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## **13. Student Absences**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below:

### **Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:**

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, you must submit an email to your TA with the appropriate medical documentation justifying your late/no submission. This email must be sent to your TA before the due date of the missed work. Each piece of missed work will be replaced by a 1000-word essay based on the corresponding materials. The topic of the essay will be provided by your TA. You will send the essay to your TA within 48hrs of receiving the topic you have to write about.

### **Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above.**

## **14. Accommodation and Accessibility**

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## **15. Academic Policies**

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

**Note: Use of recording or photographic devices is not be permitted during Lectures.**

### **Academic Offences**

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

All required materials may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## **16. Support Services**

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic



related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **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 sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **Digital Student Experience**

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.