

Course number: VAS9521B/9621B

Course name: *May You Live in Interesting Times: Pivotal Exhibitions and Artworks*

Day: Thursdays

Time: 14:30-17:30pm

Location: VAC 247

Instructor: Kelly Wood

Office: VAC 119

Email: kwood@uwo.ca

Telephone number: ext. 88248

Office Hours: Wednesday, 15:00-17:00

Course Description:

May You Live in Interesting Times: Pivotal Exhibitions and Artworks that Changed Everything

This course will begin with a study of the most recent Venice Biennale entitled "May You Live in Interesting Times" curated by Ralph Rugoff. The class will be introduced to various significant artworks in the exhibition, and, study the nature and challenges of the new trends in art production. Our objective will be to deeply comprehend how artworks relate to the "interesting times" in which they exist, and, from which they emerged—in other words, form and context. The class will investigate other important recent, and historical, exhibitions—world-wide—to identify pivotal themes and shifts in art discourse and curatorship that are still resonating today. The class will study the ideas and philosophies that have informed these movements in order to more thoroughly understand why certain artworks have become so prominent. See Power Point Presentation in Resources for more information

This course is open to both history and studio students. Rather than a focus on exhibition making and history, this course will try to explore how artworks may have produced exhibition shifts. The class will be exposed to, and critically examine, the work of a number of Canadian and International artists who have embodied, in their

form, the spirit of their times. Portions of this course will be structured around introductory seminars, presentations and lectures by the instructor. The students will then take up their own exhibition and art interests and investigate and present their research, and, or, case studies, to the class in a workshop-like environment. Innovative student directions are encouraged.

Learning Outcomes:

This is a graduate level class intended for students that would like to concentrate on the study of a particular art movement or theme of study. This course is intended to assist students in the development of analytical skills with which to enrich their understanding of contextual interpretation; and to, by extension, expand their own production methodologies.

Methods:

A high degree of discussion and participation in class activity will be encouraged. Students will participate in presentations, group critiques, issue-related seminars and discussions. They will be expected to carry out self-generated work and research. Students will work in the direction of their choice (or, may be assigned a portion of their research) and will be expected to work in a self-directed manner. The student will prepare visual material and presentations concerning their subject and submit their written research at the end of the course. *Experimental approaches are encouraged.*

All scheduled due dates must be respected. The following represents the principle requirements of the class:

Research Presentation

All students will produce and deliver, to the class, a 50 minute visual presentation in the form of research investigation, on a current or historical exhibition, artistic movement and/or artist that is considered to be paradigm-shifting in nature. The student is encouraged to form the presentation around visual cues to the argument and emphasize their various points using visual, and or textual, evidence. The student can use plain language and mostly deliver the presentation via normal speech. A supporting theoretical text, review or theory, should be sought out to strengthen the argument where possible (this should be possible in most cases). A minimum of 20 slides would be expected.

Reading responses

Four reading responses will be assigned through the OWL platform. Instructions will be available inline on OWL.

Research Paper

A semi-formal essay, based on your presentation, will be submitted at the end of this course. It will be submitted in PDF format through OWL. Instructions will be posted inline.

Note:

An aim of this course is to expose the student to a very broad range of contemporary art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is nowadays called 'mature subject matter'. Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Evaluation:

Grades will be given according to class participation, attendance and upon the quality and level of proficiency and inquiry demonstrated in class and in self-directed assignments.

Research Presentation – 40% (Feb 27th – April 6th?)

Reading Responses – 28% (4) (Jan 16th - April 6th)

Semi-formal paper/notes – 12% (April 6th)

Participation – 20%

Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

A student who cannot complete assignments totalling less than 10% for the whole course, due to medical reasons, may speak with the instructor and arrange an extension of no more than two weeks to complete the assignments without presenting medical documentation.

Electronic Devices:

You may use a computer in class to take notes. All other activities (e.g. checking email or social media sites, texting, etc.) are strongly discouraged, especially as this is distracting to others. Students should turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. No recording of lectures, or class activity, is allowed.

Statement on 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_grad.pdf

Names and Pronouns:

I will happily use your preferred name and pronoun. This includes names that are different from those on your academic file. Please let me know during/after class or during office hours or by email if I have made a mistake.

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.

Absences on Religious Holy Days

For purposes of this policy “the University has approved a list of dates which are recognized religious holidays which require members of those religions to be absent from the University; this list is updated annually and is available at departmental, Deans' and Faculty advising Offices.”

Visual Arts Department

POLICIES

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.

Attendance:

A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

Prerequisites:

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.

Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Mental Health:

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Building Access (September 1st to April 30th):

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.

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.

Please remember:

One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Professor T. Johnson (tel. 519-661-3440; vaugc@uwo.ca). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counselor for your Faculty. Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the academic counselors in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities located in IGA Building, Room 1N20.

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: www.lib.uwo.ca.

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students. Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, finaid@uwo.ca; or check out their website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html

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.

November 24, 2017