

Western University
Department of Visual Arts

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population.

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Seminar in Film and the Moving Image:
Paracinema
2019

Room VAC247
Wednesdays 2:30am – 5:30pm

Professor: Christine Sprengler
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm or by appointment
Office: VAC218
Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Course Description

“Paracinema” refers to works that attempt to generate the effects of cinema without using the traditional materials or physical support of film. Art historically, the term has been used to describe sculpture, installation, and video works from the 1960s and 1970s (including, for example, Anthony McCall’s “Line Describing A Cone” [1973]) that encourage analysis of “cinema” as an idea or concept by recreating its aesthetic, spectatorial and technological dimensions through a variety of creative strategies. This course will begin with a brief survey of paracinema’s early twentieth-century precedents, followed by a more in-depth exploration of its post-1960s manifestations. It will also consider the extent to which the term facilitates productive engagements with a variety of practices since the “cinematic turn” in contemporary art.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks that pertain to the practices being studied and will be able to engage with works of art and film according to those frameworks. Specifically, this course will familiarize students with the works and debates central to investigations into the relationship between art and the cinema

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates within the disciplines of art and film, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field through the deployment of these vocabularies in writing.

3. Application of Knowledge

Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular practice or historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works. Moreover, students will learn to evaluate written texts, analyze a diverse array of visual imagery, and think critically about the relationship between art objects, films, and their contexts.

Evaluation

Short Writing Assignment: 5%

Reading Presentation: 15%

Research Project Proposal: 10%

Seminar Presentation: 20%

Research Paper: 30%

Participation: 20%

Short Writing Assignment 5%

Due: September 18, 2019

Each student will write a 1-2 page response to Jonathan Walley's "The Material of Film and the Idea of Cinema: Contrasting Practices in Sixties and Seventies Avant-Garde Film." This response must contain a summary of the main argument, engage with one or two key ideas raised and/or discussed by the author, and pose 2 questions capable of generating class discussion.

Reading Presentation 15%

Due: Various

Each student is expected to present one reading. The student will summarize the main argument of the article and its key points and prepare a list of approximately 3-4 questions capable of generating class discussion. Questions should allow for an exploration of issues raised (though not necessarily thoroughly assessed) by the reading. A one-page outline of the presentation, including the list of discussion questions, must be submitted electronically to me the day BEFORE your presentation so that I can post it on our course website. Marks will be based on the analysis of the reading, presentation style, clarity and concision of the handout, the quality of questions formulated, and the moderation of class discussion. Each presenter should speak for approximately 15 minutes.

Research Project Proposal/Conference Proposal 10%

Due: October 30, 2019

All research projects must be approved well in advance of the presentation date. To do so, you are required to submit a presentation proposal that includes a 250-300-word description of your project that approximates a conference proposal, a list of works you plan to discuss, and a bibliography of 10 carefully selected sources. This proposal must be handed in *at least* two weeks before your seminar presentation date.

Seminar Presentation/Conference Paper 20%

Due: Various (final weeks of the course)

Each student is expected to deliver one seminar presentation that follows the basic structure and principles of the average conference paper. Presentations must be approximately 10 minutes (Undergraduate) or 15 minutes (Graduate) in length. Your mark will be based on both the content and delivery of your presentation and the effectiveness with which you lead the discussion period.

Research Paper 30%

Due: Friday, December 6, 2019

Your research paper may be an extension of your seminar presentation. You must follow Chicago Style guidelines and supply a full bibliography of sources

cited and consulted. Your mark will be based on the effectiveness of your argument, your ability to analyze critically both artworks and literary sources, and the clarity and concision of your writing. Length: Undergraduate: 10-12 pages; Graduate: 15-17 pages.

Participation 20%

This mark will be determined by the extent and quality of your engagement in seminar discussions. You are expected to adequately prepare for and contribute to every class discussion as well as every discussion period following presentations.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance *and punctuality* are mandatory.

Extensions and Late Penalties

Extensions will be granted in exceptional circumstances and typically only in cases of illness, bereavement or for other compassionate reasons. Late assignments not accompanied by official documentation will receive a penalty of 2% per day. If you suspect that you will be unable to meet a deadline, please contact me as soon as possible.

Submission of Work

Only typed hard copies of written assignments will be accepted. Hand-written documents, email submissions and files saved to disks or memory sticks will not be accepted. Late essays must be submitted to the Visual Arts Main Office and date-stamped by the office staff.

Plagiarism

All work submitted for grading must be your own and must have been composed/created exclusively for this course. Failure to comply with UWO policies pertaining to academic integrity will result in severe penalties. If you have any questions about how to cite sources or what counts as plagiarism, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

Respect

Any contravention of the UWO Code of Student Conduct or Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy will not be tolerated. Every effort will be made to foster and maintain a respectful environment.

*Please note: Syllabus is subject to change.

Sessional Dates Fall 2019

* **Note:** Any of the following deadlines that occur on a Saturday or Sunday or Statutory holiday will be extended to the next working day.

2019

September 2	Labour Day. Western University Closed
Wednesday, September 4	Fall/Winter Term classes begin.
September 13	Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies.
October 14	Thanksgiving Holiday. Western University Closed.
November 04-10	Fall Reading Week.
November 12 *	Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty.
November 30 *	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course [on campus day and evening and Distance Studies] without academic penalty.
Thursday, December 5	Fall/Winter Term classes end.
December 06-07	Study Days.
December 9-20	Mid-year / Fall term examination period.

Course 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.

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

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."

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): student.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading.

Training: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>
Owl Course Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)

The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are

stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.

For Graduate Grading Guidelines, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/visarts/grad/downloads/Graduate_Grading_Standards.pdf

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