

**Western University**  
**Department of Visual Arts**

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 continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

**9521B/9621B Studio Elective**

**Where is diaspora? Questions of diaspora from diverse perspectives in contemporary art**

Term: Winter 2022

Time: Monday 8:30-11:30 am

Location: VAC 249

Professor: Soheila K. Esfahani

Office: VAC 215

Online Office Hours: Monday 11:30 – 12:30 & Wednesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

E-mail: [skolahd@uwo.ca](mailto:skolahd@uwo.ca)

**Course Description**

Where is diaspora? Questions of diaspora from diverse perspectives in contemporary art

This course aims to locate diaspora through diverse perspectives. We will investigate cultural production, cross-cultural issues, cultural translation, and the role of the artists within the diasporic art discourse. The class will examine the work of contemporary artists as well as recent exhibitions through the theoretical frameworks of cultural theorist such as Stuart Hall and Homi Bhabha, amongst others. We will explore whether the question of “Where are you from?” is relevant within the contemporary Canadian art world.

This is a graduate level class (open to both history and studio students) intended for students that would like to concentrate on the development of a particular work of art or theme of study within the context of diasporic art. The student will propose and present this work of art, or theme, in class. The student will be expected to research, relate, and contextualize their work within the context of the course.

**Course learning outcomes**

A high degree of discussion and participation in class critiques will be encouraged. This course is intended to assist students in the development of analytical skills with which to enrich their understanding of interpretation and expand their methodologies while pursuing their respective creative processes.

## **Methods**

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 and medium of their choice and will be expected to work in a self-directed manner in the production of such work. The student will prepare written and verbal statements and presentations concerning their subject.

## **Course Materials**

There are readings assigned for most weeks in this course. Course readings are available on OWL. Students are responsible for providing all materials for their studio project.

## **Course Requirements**

Students must attend all class sessions and come fully prepared to discuss readings and participate in all related class activities. Course readings are available on OWL.

All work for the course must be entirely of the student's own and all sources used in presentations or papers must be properly cited. All course work must be completed specifically for the class alone and completed punctually by the end of the course.

## **Evaluation**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Written Reading Responses	20%
Presentations	25%
Course Project	45%

## **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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

## **Enrollment Restrictions**

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Department of Visual Arts, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

## **Health/Wellness Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.