

PhD Seminar: Theory & Methods

VA 9600A – FALL 2021

Tuesdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm VAC 247

+ asynchronous online components



Caroline Monnet, still from *Mobilize*, 2015 <https://www.nfb.ca/film/mobilize/>

Professor Sarah Bassnett

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Virtual office hours – Tuesdays 2 – 2:30 pm via zoom and by appointment in VAC 219

Class time: Tuesdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm + asynchronous

Course Description:

This seminar is the foundation course for the PhD program in Art and Visual Culture. The theoretical component of the course aims to develop proficiency in critical theory. It prepares students for the comprehensive exams and helps them establish the theoretical framework for their thesis prospectus. The research methods module of the course examines a variety of methodologies for studying art and visual culture. Students learn to situate their research within their field of study and begin work on a literature review for their thesis prospectus. The course also addresses professional practices, such as grant writing and pedagogy.

Western University is located on the lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton (Neutral) peoples. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples, whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Format

This course has synchronous and asynchronous components. For the synchronous component, we meet on Zoom for one hour a week on Tuesday at 11:30 am. For the asynchronous components, you'll determine your own schedule for working through course activities and materials while still meeting the course deadlines.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- analyze and contextualize a range of theoretical texts
- effectively communicate complex ideas orally and in writing
- establish learning goals for an undergraduate course and begin to develop the teaching materials needed to achieve them
- situate research / artistic practice in relation to the relevant fields of art and literature
- manage expectations and workload
- set reasonable goals for scholarly and professional development
- participate constructively in class discussions

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer with microphone, speakers, camera

For technical assistance, check the [OWL Help page](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). Phone 519-661-3800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to use for OWL.

Course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be announced on the OWL site.

Readings

Readings for the course are available online. Most readings are posted as PDFs on OWL, although you'll access *Effective Grading* as an e-book in Weldon Library. Theory readings selected by first-years are from the Minor Comprehensive reading lists on the password protected area of the Department of Visual Arts website: <https://www.uwo.ca/visarts/restricted/gradinfo.htm>.

ASSESSMENTS

DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	Due date	Grading
Participation	Weekly	10%
Quizzes on readings	Weekly	10%
Theory paper & presentation	Oct 5 or 12 @ 11:30 am	25%
Lesson plan & presentation	Nov 23 or 30 @ 11:30 am	15%
Workshop of literature review	Nov 12 @ 5 pm	5%
Final version of literature review	Dec 8 @ 5 pm	35%

Participation 10% (weekly)

The participation portion of your grade will be based on your contributions to discussions and activities. Please note that this course includes synchronous and asynchronous elements, and you are expected to complete course work on a weekly basis.

Reading Responses – 10%

Reading responses should be approximately 250-words long and should first briefly summarize the reading and then comment on the ideas raised in the text. Your response journal should address 10 of the assigned readings from the theory and research methods readings (week 3 to 8 with the exception of Paul Oliver, “The Literature Review”). Your responses will form the basis of our class discussion about the reading, which means this assignment should be completed weekly, even though you will hand it in as one document.

Theory Paper & Presentation – 25%

This assignment is a 1000-word paper and fifteen-minute seminar presentation on one of the assigned readings from the **Minor Comprehensive reading list (for First Years), or your developing Bibliography for the Major Comprehensive (for Second Years)**. Presentation dates and readings will be arranged at the beginning of the course. Readings (second years) must be posted to OWL at least one week before your presentation so class members have time to read it.

For the paper and presentation, you are expected to come to terms with the main ideas in the reading and be able to situate its arguments historically and theoretically as well as in relation to the author’s other writings and an appropriate theoretical field. As well, you should attempt to explain the relationship between the author’s theoretical approach and your own research question. Be sure to include a bibliography with your paper.

Lesson Plan – 10%

Develop a lesson plan for one class session of a course you would be interested in teaching. Using the guidelines for lesson planning discussed in class, come to class prepared to “teach” a 15-minute portion of the plan you have developed. Your grade on this assignment will be based on both the presentation and the written submission using the BOPPPS lesson planner.

Literature Review – 30%

A literature review is an analysis of the scholarship on a particular topic. Its purpose is to map the key concepts and issues in a field and to synthesize existing scholarship. By reviewing the literature, you can identify important debates in a field, and this can help you to formulate new questions and position your own research within that field. This assignment gives you the opportunity to get up to date on the literature in the main field you expect to engage with for your PhD research. Your literature review should be approximately 2000 words (eight pages) and should include a bibliography of all sources discussed. We will workshop drafts of the literature review on Oct. 31. Drafts must be submitted by Oct 30 @ 8 pm. Guidelines will be provided.

POLICIES ON LATE OR MISSED ASSESSMENTS

Extensions, granted for valid reasons, must be negotiated before assignments are due. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% each day. Exceptions to the late penalties are outlined below under academic consideration.

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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

All work for the course must be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, it is better to err on the side of caution. Consult the academic integrity lesson on OWL and / or talk to me before assignment due dates. All course work must be completed specifically for this course. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating.

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism includes:

- Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement.
- Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement.
- Submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement.
- Knowingly representing another person's idea as one's own.

All assignments are subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the Internet, e-journals, e-books, and a range of other scanned material, including other assignments for this course. 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.

CITATION STYLE

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>.

POLICIES & CONDUCT

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Department of Visual Arts.

Student Conduct

Students will conduct themselves in a manner 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.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

I am committed to fostering a class environment that is comfortable for all students, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds. These core values include using preferred gender pronouns and human-centred language, which convey respect for people's diverse experiences. We do not always have to agree with one another; however, everyone is expected to show respect for the views of other people. Behaviour that is disruptive or discriminatory will not be tolerated.

Religious Accommodation

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

Professionalism & Privacy In addition to following the [Student Code of Conduct](#) Western students are expected to adhere to the following expectations of professional conduct:



- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to uphold academic integrity standards
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material is copyrighted and using this material for any purposes other than your own education contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings. Do not post course material on any websites or platforms.

RESOURCES

Office Hours / Email

Office hours will be held on Zoom. Please see me during my office hours if you are having difficulty or would like to discuss any aspect of the course. If you cannot make it during office hours, arrange an appointment or contact me by email. I will make every effort to reply to email within one to two business days. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

Support Services

There are numerous support services designed to assist students with the challenges of university. Please see the Student Development Centre web site for a description of the full array of services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Learning Skills Services offers one-on-one assistance with academic issues: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/>. Other services include Student Health Services <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>, the Registrar's Office <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/> and the Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>.

Health and Wellness

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, 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 engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. For immediate help in the event of a crisis call 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

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.

University of Western Ontario Department of Visual Arts GRADUATE GRADING STANDARDS

90 – 100 Work of **excellent** quality

(PhD / MA) Approaching if not already at professional standards.

Thoroughly and creatively engaged at high level of research, possibly with primary sources; very high standards in writing and evidence of sophistication in all aspects of the work

(PhD studio / MFA) Approaching if not already at professional standards.

Thoroughly and creatively engaged at a high level of artistic and/or written production; very high standards and sophistication evidenced in all areas of production

86 – 89 Work of **very good** quality

(PhD / MA) Demonstrably better than expected with respect to research effort, mastery of critical and analytical tools, and involves polished presentation style

(PhD studio / MFA) Demonstrably evolved beyond expected standards of critical, theoretical and creative engagement in artistic and/or written production

80 – 85 Work of **good** quality

(PhD / MA) Shows competence in research and writing but could be improved in one or more ways

(PhD studio / MFA) Shows competence in artistic and/or written production but could be improved in one or more ways

78 – 79 Work of **acceptable** quality

(PhD / MA) Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas

(PhD studio / MFA) Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas

70 – 77 Work of **passable** quality (a warning regarding removal of funding)

(PhD / MA) Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to research approach, or critical or analytical skills, or writing ability

(PhD studio / MFA) Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to critical, theoretical or practical engagement in artistic and/or written production

– 69 Work of **unacceptable** quality
(PhD/MA/MFA) Removal from program