

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
Drawing Explorations VAS 2104a**

Calendar Description:

An introductory course exploring a wide range of traditional and contemporary aspects of drawing in order to develop an understanding of its applications to the Visual Arts as well as other frameworks.

Course Description:

Throughout this term students progress through a series of projects that build skill along with an exposure to the diversity of contemporary drawing practices. Working from observation, figuration, abstraction and digital processes, students will investigate materiality, design, historical context and concept. Along with building drawing skills, students discover the conventions of drawing to consider their cultural meanings and push at established boundaries. Studio exercises, assignments as well as independent and group projects will be directed to develop a working knowledge of the basic materials, processes and visual language. As the course develops emphasis on formal and perceptual means will increasingly be brought to bear on resolving conceptual problems. Lectures, readings, discussions, and critiques will serve to familiarize students with broad range of theoretical and critical tools fundamental to current drawing practices. All students will be expected to engage in rigorous experimentation in responding to class projects and personally develop the means to apply acquired resources on an independent basis.

Course Information:

Time: Tuesdays, 6pm-10pm
Studio: Room 230
Instructor: Neil Klassen
Office: Rm 222
nklasse2@uwo.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays 5-6 or by appointment

Learning Objectives:

- Students will acquire the range of skills required to engage in the material practice being studied
- Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the medium, be able to identify various ways works in that medium operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects
- Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to punctually attend *all* class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. This is a Studio course, and great emphasis is placed upon in-class work, feedback and discussion. Under university regulations, students who miss more than 15% of the course hours (4 classes per semester) without prior consultation or documentation (medical or bereavement vetted through student's faculty academic advisor) can be debarred from final studio critiques and examinations. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cut-off and be disbarred.

- Unless specifically given as an entirely homework project, all assignments must be worked on in class. Assignments not seen in progress by the instructor will not be accepted for grading, resulting in a loss of a project's percentage in the year end mark.

- Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.

- Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates for critique. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students can hand in late work with 2% per day deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day). No late work will be accepted 3 weeks, or later, after the assigned due date (grade = 0). Work handed in on the due date can always be reworked after it has been graded to be reconsidered for a grade. Resubmission will not be accepted on work that was handed in after the due date. No work will accepted after December 4th.

- 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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. 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.

- Students are expected to be prepared to work at the beginning of class with appropriate materials, as well as **cleaning-up after each work session**. It is particularly disrespectful to a model to arrive late, or unprepared, for life-drawing sessions; as well as being a waste of what are limited available hours

- Students are expected to spend a minimum 1-hour outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.

- Students must adhere to health and safety guidelines in accordance with departmental regulations, failure to comply could result in removal from the course with a failing grade.

- Students are responsible for ensuring they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a 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 fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Evaluation:

Assignments	80%
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Attendance, preparation and participation,	20%
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Students must complete all assignments by the due dates stated in the syllabus unless a previous agreement has been made with the instructors. The Syllabus may be subject to change in order to adapt to class needs. All changes will be announced in class with fair advanced warning.

Studio assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Understanding of project concepts and ability to express that understanding
 Ambition, resourcefulness, creativity, risk taking
 Technical development
 Completion and quality of assignments
 Development and maturity of ideas
 Attendance and participation in class activities

Based on the success in meeting the above criteria, grades will be assessed as follows:

A+ /90-100%	Outstanding work
A / 80 – 89%	Superior work that is clearly above average
B / 70 – 79%	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C / 60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting requirements
D / 50 – 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F /below 50%	Unsatisfactory work which shows insufficient effort or comprehension

Course Schedule:

An overview of the topics covered and relative time allotted to each unit of study.

NOTE: This is a general syllabus and it may change as necessary during the semester.

Week 1	Tues, Sept. 15	Introduction to course, discussing outline, Materials show & tell, discussion of first assignment -Collaborative Drawing Exercise
Week 2	Tues, Sept. 22	Reading discussion Class workshop
Week 3	Tues, Sept. 29	Critique: Project 1: Places
Week 4	Tues, Oct. 6	Intro to Project 2: Class workshop
Week 5	Tues, Oct. 13	Critique: Project 2: Objects
Week 6	Tues, Oct 20	Life Drawing
Week 7	Tues, Oct. 27	Life Drawing
Week 8	Tues, Nov 3	Life Drawing

Week 9	Tues, Nov. 10	Critique: Project 3 Figures
Week 10	Tues, Nov. 17	Class Workshop
Week 11	Tues, Nov. 24	Critique: Project 4 Spaces
Week 12	Tues, Nov. 24	Class Workshop
Week 13	Tues, Dec. 1	Work Period- self-directed
Week 14	Tues, Dec. 8	Final Critique: Project 5 Self-Directed

Studio Assignments:

This is a general overview of the studio assignments for this course. Assignment directives will be detailed in class with key concepts and objectives explained and illustrated through examples.

Project	Worth	Due Date
Project 1: Places	10%	Sept 29
Project 2: Objects	10%	Oct 13
Project 3: Figures	10%	Nov 10
Project 4: Spaces	10%	Nov 24
Project 5: Self-Directed	20%	Dec 8
Project 6: Sketchbook (ongoing)	20%	Dec 8

Assignments/Late Assignments:

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with a 2% per day deduction from the assignment. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

Readings:

Readings that relate to the projects of this course will be made available on OWL (webct.uwo.ca) Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss these articles on the following class.

Critiques:

There will be a critique for each of the main projects. A significant part of each student's mark

will be decided by the effectiveness of the approach they employ to present their work at their critique. The critique's are intended for you to respond to your peers work and to your own. It is not a platform for the instructor to speak solely, everyone is to be involved. Learning to analyze one's own work and the work of others is an important skill for any student/student artist to develop.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL CRITIQUES IS MANDATORY.

]Correspondence

I will check my email account every weekday morning and will respond to all emails I receive. If you have an issue that requires immediate attention, please contact;

Marlene Jones, Undergraduate Assistant: mjones5@uwo.ca (519) 661-3440 x83440 Room: VAC 200

OWL / Sakai Documentation

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Materials:

Specific materials needed for each in-class assignment will be discussed well in advance so students have enough time to purchase what is required. Specific materials needed will vary from student to student based upon specific responses to class assignments. Please refer to the list below for a basic assortment of painting and drawing tools that should be brought to class as needed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students will use only non-toxic materials in the studio; no solvents or solvent-based materials are permitted. ALL aerosol sprays must be used only in department spray booths and only after students have received proper training in its use by the instructor or department technical manager.

Required materials:

2 Sketchbooks (9" x 12" is preferred)

Drawing pads: 18 x 24 newsprint &

18 x 24 bond or cartridge paper

Few sheet of mid-range quality paper like

Mayfair

drawing board

bulldog clips

pencils: H,HB,2B,4B,6B,8B

pencil sharpener (small xacto knife)

kneadable and hard eraser
charcoal: compressed, vine and pencil
conté : black and white
Set of 3 Micron permanent drawing pens
large ruler (30 inches or more)
spray fixative (share)
one cardboard or portfolio case (improvised is fine)
Black drawing ink, bamboo brush and nib pens
Art supply box (tool box) (this is optional)
Sandpaper (100-220 grit)
Painters masking tape (the green stuff)

Dollar/Department Store Materials

White vinyl eraser
Pencil sharpener
Masking tape
Scissors
Glue stick
One metal utility knife
One razor blade
Random collage materials

* particular additional materials relative to specific assignments may be needed.

Notes:

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.

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.

This information appears on Page 3, under Support Services at the link: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>

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.

VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio

These guidelines are benchmarks, 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 at the first year level are generally lower than at fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **studio work** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A)

The **studio work** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)

The **studio work** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

70-74 (Good, B)

The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

60-69 (Competent, C)

The **studio work** demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

50-59 (Marginal, D)

The **studio work** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The **studio work** demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

The University of Western Ontario 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). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html> or the 2015/2016 Western Academic Calendar, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)

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.

Building Access:

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

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, Prof. David Merritt (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, IGA Building, Room 1N20 (Ms. Amanda Green and Mr. Ben Hakala are the counselors for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities).

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services to students 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