

The University of Western Ontario - Department of Visual Arts – September - December 2015

Course: VAS 2282A Title: BFA Studio Seminar - Section 001

Location: VAC 247 Time: Friday 1:00-5:00 a.m.

Instructor: Kim Moodie

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Phone: 519-661-2111 ext.86195

Course Description:

Visual Arts 2282 is a second year studio /theory seminar course required for students taking an Honors Specialization in Studio Arts. A focus of the course is the development of an informed, studio practice in the context of an introduction to various methods and practices of professional artists. Structured around technical workshops, seminars, writing assignments and critiques this course is intended to assist students to begin preparations for the portfolio review required for admission into VAS 4430 Practicum (BFA Graduating Studio Seminar course).

Learning Outcomes:

[a] Development of a disciplined, objective and experimental studio practice in which a considered art projects are realized [b] Research relative to an awareness of important contemporary artists and methodologies [c] Awareness of operative activities that foster the advancement of a professional artist, i.e. graduate school applications, grants for artists, documentation, artist statements, curriculum vitae, a comprehension of exhibition venues and their relativity to diverse art practices, public art lectures and field trips to galleries.

Class Format:

The class is held once a week for four hours. The majority of classes are structured in a seminar style where active participation in various discussions and workshops will be crucial in achieving a positive learning outcome. Besides in-class meetings, students should attend visiting artist talks at the school and visit galleries on their own in order to successfully complete assignments throughout the term. In order to achieve a successful learning outcome, it is your responsibility to read or make available all the required readings and research before the seminars and workshops. Two formal critiques will occur in which the student studio projects will be discussed and evaluated.

Requirements and Assignments:

Students are expected to attend all classes and complete all assignments. Punctuality is noted as an indication of the student's seriousness of intent in relation to course study. University policy states that an instructor can potentially refuse to grade the work of students who miss more than 15% of classes. Students who miss a significant amount of class time due to medical reasons or bereavement should make an appointment with the Academic Counselor in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Office in University College, or in the offices of the student's faculty. The Counselor and the instructor will then discuss how the student would fulfill course requirements. Late assignments will automatically lose 5% of their grade and then 10% per week. Assignments

will not be accepted 3 weeks past due date and not at all after the end of the 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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf> [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading]

Specific Policy on assignments totaling less than 10%: Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totaling 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 Policy:

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.

OWL:

All students will have access to the OWL Sakai course site:
<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Suggested Useful Material:

Subscription to one Canadian art journal/ magazine from the following options: BlackFlash, Border Crossings, C Magazine, Public An active email account

RESOURCES:

On-line resources The Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art
<http://www.ccca.ca/start.html?languagePref=en&>

Art listings, journals, blogs Akimbo (Canada) <http://www.akimbo.ca/> Artforum (International) <http://www.artforum.com> e-Flux (International) <http://www.e-flux.com>

Galleries in London, ON Museum London www.londonmuseum.on.ca 421 Ridout Street North (at Dundas) The McIntosh Gallery www.mcintoshgallery.ca on campus approaching Social Science The Forest City Gallery www.forestcitygallery.com 258 Richmond Street (near Horton St.) The ARTS Project www.artsproject.ca 205 Dundas St. (by Central Library) Michael Gibson Gallery www.gibsongallery.com 157 Carling Street (near Richmond) Parker Branch www.parkerbranch.ca 99 1/2 Stanley St. (at Wharncliffe) (On hiatus) DNA Artspace <http://www.dnaartspace.com/> 123 Dundas St. (East of Talbot)

Art Now!

Contemporary Artist Profiles Art: 21 DVD – you can view this DVD in our Visual Arts Resource Centre or at: <http://www.pbs.org/art21/> Vision Database (high quality jpeg image files): see librarian in the Visual Arts Resource Centre Weldon Library has a good, continually updated collection on contemporary artists Speaker Series: Thursday Evenings at 7pm, Rm. 100 (check for dates throughout the term)

Course Assignments and Evaluation Breakdown:

Following is a list of assignments and their relative percentage of the course grade. For each assignment students will receive an outline defining its aims, parameters and precise breakdown.

1. Two Studio Projects as assigned by the instructor. [15% each]. There will be a handout describing each of these in the first two classes. 2. An independent studio project organized by the student. [25%]. 3. Presentation on a contemporary artist, concept or theme [15%]. 4. Dossier [15%]. 5. Attendance and Participation [15%].

*Attendance: Attendance records are kept for all students. Grades for attendance will be calculated accordingly: Perfect attendance= 5%, 1 absence= 4.5%, 2= 4%, 3=3.5%, 4 = 2.5%, 5=2.%. This scale relates to all classes including the first one. Note 4 absences in a semester could lead to being debarred from the class. 2 Lates=1 Absence. Students missing more than half a class on a given day are considered absent. (See course requirements for more detail regarding attendance policy)

Gallery Visits and Lectures

At various points over the semester, all or part of the scheduled class will take place at various events or galleries: Art Lab receptions, London gallery openings, and lectures in the Art Now! Speakers Series. Attendance at these events is considered part of the course and attendance at them is expected.

Grading Criteria:

All grades will be based on the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

- 1] Commitment and contribution to all class activities.
- 2] Grasp of requirements and objectives of assignments and ability to communicate that understanding
- 3] Ambition, development and resolution of conceptual, technical and
- 4] Creative aspects of all assignments.

Grade Scales:

90-100% The 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

Guidelines for VAS 2282A Participation:

- 1] Participation includes participating verbally in class discussions and critiques in a productive, mature manner. It also includes professional and respectful behaviour during all class activities.
- 2] Participation includes attending classes punctually and prepared with required materials to discuss, present or work, preparing all readings and attending all events included on the course outline or announced periodically throughout the course and staying for the entirety of the class.
- 3] Respecting the rules of the building, respecting the department's equipment and treating other

student's art and materials with respect. This includes taking your work down when a booking is finished, ensuring the location of your critiques and that they will not interfere with any other class or student booking.

Guidelines for Independent Studio Work:

- 1] Your project should be started as soon as possible.
- 2] You should have a thematic or concern in the work that you are prepared to discuss in critique. This can range from philosophical, political, social, or aesthetic concerns. Your media and techniques should be clearly related to your thematic concerns.
- 3] The work(s) can be in any media.
- 4] Workload: Whether it is a series or a single piece, the amount of work produced should be appropriate to 12 weeks of research and production.
- 5] The instructor expects to be informed on a regular basis on the projects progress. Time is allotted in most classes for consultation. Individual meetings can also be arranged outside of class time. Projects that the instructor has not seen in stages of progress throughout the course will not be accepted for grading. Please note that projects handed in for more than one course is considered a form of plagiarism.

Guidelines for Dossier Project:

This is a major research project that may act as a sketchbook, journal, file folder and/or experimental tool. It is meant to help you develop intellectual and material interests and organize them in creative and individual ways. It must be well organized and legible. It should include notes and sketches on your studio project. It should include notes on artists, individual art works, exhibitions, art performances, art lecture, art films, and should have a significant section based on what you have seen on your own, independent of class. It should also include some musings, thoughts on the presentations, exhibitions, etc. that you have been to with the class. These musings are important because they indicate that you are thinking about, considering, what you hear and see. You will develop the form your research project takes. It could be a book (a scrapbook, a zine,) a blog or other medium that will allow you to collect, analyse and creatively synthesize information and ideas. It should have 6 reports of 250-275 words with illustrations and footnotes. These can be based on Gallery visits, Art Now talks, Studio visits etc. Those students who write intelligent reports and exhibit some individual activities relative to the reports will receive the best grades. Those students who base their reports primarily on class activities will have their grades base upon proportions of independence and the intelligence of reports.

An extra part of this project will include a 250 word artist's statement., so in total there should be SEVEN REPORTS.

At 15% of the final mark, this should not be undervalued. Do not think you can throw this together at the last minute.

Guidelines or Seminar Project:

This report should be on a Canadian artist who has received a significant grant from either a provincial or federal granting body or a residency. A brief but informative discussion of the

guidelines for this award should be included in the presentation.

1] Your presentation should be approximately 20 minutes long plus a discussion period, and should precisely discuss the artist's history/career, or the history of the theme or concept. Information gleaned from relevant readings should be included and acknowledged in your presentation and one reading should be provided for the class. There will be a five-minute question period based both on your presentation and the reading.

2] Include carefully chosen background information on artists. See if you can include information on relevant influences, mentors, and teachers. Be prepared to discuss the form, media, content, themes of the artist's work and do this chronologically to see if there is a clear development of concerns. The artist's media and ideas may change over the duration of their career so the development of themes and techniques may or may not be readable.

3] Include 6 to 8 visual examples of work, these may include contextual images related to influences or peers related to the subject.

4] Have a copy of your presentation that you can refer to or read from while presenting. Double check that your visual examples are in order and readily accessible sometime prior to the presentation. Make sure images are of good quality when projected. Part of your grade will be based on clarity and flow so please be well prepared. An outline must be handed in to the instructor at the end of the presentation.

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 anti-requisite 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. Refer to

www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html# or the 2015/2016 Western Academic Calendar, p. 19, 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.

Mental Health Policy:

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:

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00 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 10:00 pm and 5:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hour

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. 519-661-2111 ext. 86182; 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 (Mr. Ben Hakala or Ms. Amanda Green 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

Course Timetable:

This guideline may be altered due to resource accessibility

Sept. 11 - Course Introduction

Sept. 18 - Visit to Museum London and Michael Gibson Gallery

Sept. 25 - Visit to Forest City Gallery, DNA Gallery, Satellite Gallery and the Arts Project.

Oct. 2 - Visit to Various Artist studios.

Oct.9 - Studio Work Period

Oct. 16 - Mid Term Crit- Studio Projects

Oct. 23 - Seminar Presentations

Oct. 30 - Fall Break-no class.

Nov. 6 - Seminar Presentations

Nov.13 - Seminar Presentations

Nov. 20 - Visit to Professional Artist Studios and McIntosh Gallery.

Nov. 27 - Consultation with Instructor- Studio Work Period.

Dec. 4 - Final Crit

Dec. 11 - Submission of Dossier/Notebook.