

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts  
Fall 2017-08-30

**VAH 1042A: Art, Science and Technology**

Lecture: Thursday 2:30 – 4:30 PM – MC Room 110

Tutorials: Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 PM – TBA

Professor: Dr. Joy James

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 2:00PM or by appointment

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Office Hours

Tues. 3:00 – 4:00PM

Wed. 12:30 – 1:30PM

Tues. 3:00 – 4:00PM

Wed. 10:00 – 11:00AM

Tues. 10:00 – 11:00AM

Tues. 3:00 – 4:00PM

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with an introduction to the foundations of art history through a focus on the historical and present-day relationships between art, science and technology. Using images, texts, podcasts and videos, the basis for understanding characteristic ways of knowing generated by various forms of inquiry will be examined. Ranging from crossovers between art historians and archeologists in the investigation of European Ice Age cave art, through to collaborative work being done by contemporary biologists and artists, students will be invited to explore the connections of art, science and technology. From theory, to history, to criticism and analysis, students will become familiar with the disciplinary differences and similarities intrinsic to organizing and making sense of image and objects within the contexts of production, reception and circulation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to assist you in gaining:

- knowledge about the relation of art to science and technology in a series of diverse historical contexts
- familiarity with terminology, methods and theories employed in the study of art and recognizing differences and similarities to those employed in the study of science and technology
- competency in the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired in the course

**Required Readings and Podcasts:**

All required readings and podcasts are posted on OWL/Sakai Course site:

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

You access this site by using the same ID and password as your UWO email account.

**Additional Resource:** A digital copy of Grant Pooke and Diana Newall's *Art History: The Basics* (Routledge 2008) is available through Western Libraries:

[bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=http://www.myilibrary.com?id=131359](http://www.myilibrary.com?id=131359)

The text provides information regarding key terms, concepts, theories and methodologies used in the discipline of Art History.

**Grade Distribution:**

In-Class Test 1	15%	October 05
Essay Assignment	20%	October 26
In-Class Test 2	20%	November 09
Tutorial Attendance and Participation	10%	Ongoing
Final Exam	35%	(3-hr Dec Exam Period)
Total	100%	

**Tutorials:**

The course uses a model of 2-hour lecture, 1-hour small enrollment tutorial. In addition, the course is virtually supported by the course WebCT site that provides access to information, resources, on-line activities and workshops. Attendance in lectures and tutorials is mandatory. Although Teaching Assistants (TAs) have flexibility in the structure of tutorials, certain activities will be addressed across all tutorial sections, including the review of lecture materials, preview of assignment and exam requirements, and opportunity for discussion of assigned readings and podcasts. TAs are responsible for issuing and grading the essay assignment, and for administering any review quizzes, group exercises, or other learning initiatives as they see fit.

**Syllabus**

Week 1

Thursday, September 7  
Introduction

Week 2

Thursday, September 14  
Visible Code: Signs, Symbols, Communication Systems  
Required Listening: Ibn Tufayl's Hayy Ibn Yaqzān podcast  
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-self-taught-philosopher-how-a-900-year-old-arabic-tale-inspired-the-enlightenment-1.4116060>

Week 3

Thursday, September 21  
Technologies of Knowing  
Required Reading: Daniel Buren "The Function of the Studio" and "The Function of the Studio Revisited". Required listening: "How to Think about Science" Podcast  
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/how-to-think-about-science-part-1-1.464989>

Week 4

Thursday, September 28  
Seeing Science  
Required Reading: Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison "Truth-to-Nature"

Week 5

Thursday, October 05  
**In-Class Test #1**

Week 6  
Thursday, October 12  
READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Week 7  
Thursday, October 19  
World on Display – The Great Exhibitions  
Required Reading: Donald Preziosi “Haunted by Things”

Week 8  
Thursday, October 26  
Art, Technology and Modernism  
Required Reading: Donald Preziosi “Practicing the Self”  
**Essay Due**

Week 9  
Thursday, November 02  
Information Revolution: printing press to Internet and digitization  
Required Reading: Walter Benjamin “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical  
Reproduction”

Week 10  
Thursday, November 09  
**In-Class Test 2**

Week 11  
Thursday, November 16  
Seeing Photographically – Medicine and Psychiatry  
Required Reading: Walter Benjamin “A Little History of Photography”

Week 12  
Thursday, November 23  
Workshop TBA

Week 13  
Thursday, November 30  
Guest artist  
Required reading: Patrick Mahon “Pictures, Time, Colour and Apology: Some terms of  
address in art about water

Week 14  
Thursday, December 07  
Final Exam Review

## **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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., p.1170). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html> with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.) 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 Wellbeing:**

"Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Wellbeing [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](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 10:00pm 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 C. Barteet (tel. 519-661-3440; [vaugc@uwo.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:finaid@uwo.ca); or check out their website at [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student\\_finances/financial\\_counselling.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/financial_counselling.html)

August 21, 2017

## **The University of Western Ontario – Department of Visual Arts**

### **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.