

Department of Visual Arts
Western University

VAS 3330/4492a Advanced Print Media

Theme: Written on the Earth:

Printmaking & Other Art Practices Respond to Tornado Evidence

Welcome to Advanced Print Media. Below you will find all the necessary information about this course including some important points concerning demonstrations, working in class and materials. All aspects of the course will be discussed in class, but please read the course outline and refer back to it throughout the semester.

Patrick Mahon

Calendar Description

A continuation of the study of print media. **Please Note:** Students are responsible for ensuring they have successfully completed all course prerequisites (VAS 2236a or VAS 2236b) 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.

Course Objectives

This course offers a continuation of print media allowing students to enhance their printmaking skills while learning more advanced techniques in the areas of relief, intaglio and screen as well as introducing students to the process of lithography.

In the first half of the course specifically, the art project, “Written on the Earth: Art Practices Respond to Tornado Evidence,” will enable students to engage with photographic data and other information regarding tornado activity, to motivate their own art projects with the intention of increasing public awareness and interest in a current Engineering Faculty-based research project, to enhance and expands platforms for understanding. Under the direction of Prof. Patrick Mahon, in context of the Advanced Printmaking course, students will embark on a print and digital photography project with the intention of producing exhibition-ready artworks for display in the ArtLab Gallery in January 2019. Working alongside Mahon and the students, as well as independently, four professional artists will formulate multi-media “sketches” of new artworks, too, and will also engage with the printmaking students regarding the development of their projects.

In addition, student driven assignments will also be the focus of both VAS 3330.

Importantly, training and awareness of health and safety issues will be integrated into all studio practices and *strictly enforced*.

The Anti-Requisite for this course is VAS 330

Course Information

Instructor: Professor Patrick Mahon
Office: VAC Rm. 121
Tel: 519-661-2111 ext. 85529
Office Hour: Wednesday 12-1:00
pmahon@uwo.ca

Technician: Jessica Woodward
jwoodwa5@uwo.ca

Class: John Labatt Visual Arts Centre room 106
Wednesday 1:30-5:30

Online: To facilitate VAS 3330/4492a, students can access our OWL site through

Course Readings will be available on the OWL site.

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

Learning Outcomes

- *Depth and Breadth of Knowledge:* Students will acquire a range of advanced technical skills required to engage in the material practice of printmaking. Students will also become familiar with the historical genesis of and terms associated with the various print material areas being studied as well as contemporary discourses surrounding those materials.
- *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain a further understanding of print methodologies and visual possibilities of each media through practical applications.
- *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate orally regarding their projects through critique and class discussion, including in response to instructor presentations and critiques.

Attendance, Preparedness, Working in Class

- VAS 3330/4492a is a Studio class, therefore all the instruction happens in the studio. **Full attendance is mandatory for students enrolled in either 3330 or as an Independent Study.** Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (*4 classes per semester*) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations and/or critiques. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred. Fair warning will be given

through email and departmental letters to students if lack of attendance is persistent.

- Students are expected to come **prepared to participate** in all class activities, lectures, work periods and critiques. This includes having all the necessary art materials you need for each specific class session. Students are expected to work on their art assignments during work sessions.
- Attendance is taken during each class by the instructor. Leaving the class early will be recorded.
- **Do not come late!** Lateness is disrespectful to the instructor and your fellow students. If you do come late, it will be recorded by the instructor and will adversely affect your commitment mark.

Course Requirements

- Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed by referring to the syllabus.
- 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 could result in a failing grade. If you choose to hand in work late, **2% per day will be deducted from the assignment** (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day) and no written feedback will be given to late work. **One week after the due date, late work will not be accepted and the student will be given a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment.** The final assignments are due on the last class in April. Assignments not received on the last class will be given a mark of 0 (zero).
- Students are expected to **clean-up after each work session.**
- **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 MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.**
- **A student who cannot complete assignments totaling less than 10% for the whole course, due to medical reasons, may speak with the instructor and arrange an extension of no more than two weeks to complete the assignments, WITH MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION.**
- **Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.**
- Students are expected to spend a minimum 1-hour outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.
- Students **must** take **detailed notes** during the demonstrations throughout the semester. Printmaking is a very involved process; it cannot be learned intuitively

and it is imperative that you take detailed notes to refer to when you are working. As well, you are shown how to properly use the equipment and materials in the demonstration for your own safety as well as to maintain the equipment in the shop. When you have a technical problem, the instructor and the technician will want to refer to your notes as an aspect of assisting you. Not taking notes during a demonstration will negate your ability to ask the technician and instructor for technical assistance. **Reckless use of shop equipment as well as disregarding health and safety procedures are grounds for being removed from the class.**

- Demonstrations can often be 4 to 6 hours long and cover 2 full class periods. Demonstrations of such length can never be repeated. Attendance at demonstrations is mandatory in order for every student to understand the procedures of each print practice.

Departmental and University 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.
http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_19
- **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/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_189 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.
- **Building Access (September 1st to April 30th):** 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). 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 University College Room 2230.
- The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; 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.
- 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
- **Academic Sanctions:** In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.
- The above prohibitions shall be in force until such time as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the satisfaction of the University
http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

Evaluation

Every Print Assignment given will have a corresponding grading rubric the instructor will use to assess the assignment. Each assignment will also have a final critique, using a range of critique methodologies. Assignments will be handed in for further consideration by the instructor and will be given a numerical grade and written comments, posted to OWL.

Grades for Artwork will reflect the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate*

- Student's success in accordance with general course objectives (as above) and specific assignment objectives.
- Completion and quality of assignments
- Understanding of project concepts and the ability to express that understanding
- Degree of inventiveness and ambition of assignments
- Participation and commitment to process

Visual Arts follows Western University's Grade Descriptors as follows:

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| A+ /90-100% | Outstanding work; one could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
| 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 |

Fall 2018 Evaluation Breakdown:

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| <u>Portfolio of Projects and Assignments:</u> | 75% (Breakdown: 70% Tornado Project; 30% other test-prints and assignments) |
| <u>Tornado Project Proposal and Research Dossier:</u> | 5% |
| <u>Artist's Statement/Brief Research Essay :</u> | 5% |
| Reading Presentation: | 5% |
| <u>Class Participation & Commitment:</u> | 10% |

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| Outline of Classes: |
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Sept. 12 - Introduction, Tornado Project Presentation 1, Individual Meetings

- Schedule, Presentation sign-up, Tornado Project discussion, Class Organization discussion
- General Slide Presentation re: Printmaking and Related Work
- Presentation on "*Written on the Earth*" (*Tornado Project*)
- Assign Tornado Project Research & Proposal (Due Oct. 16)
- 3:30-4:30 – Individual meetings with Prof. Mahon re: *Tornado Project* (optional)

Sept. 19 – Tornado Project Presentation 2, Materials Requests, Wind Tunnel Tour

- 1:30-3:00 – Major Presentation on Tornado Project (Guests)
- 3:00 – 3:30 – Meet with Jessica regarding individual supply requests
- 3:30 – 4:30 – Tour Wind Tunnel

Sept. 26 – Work Period, Tornado Project Presentation Parameters & Discussion 3, Break into Groups re: Screen & Intaglio

- 1:30 – Announcements & Discussion of *Tornado Project* plans.
- 2:00 – 2:45 Reading/Visual Input Discussion
- 3:00 – 4:00 – Etching & Screen Refresher Demo and Test Print Assignment
- 4:00 – 4:30 – Meetings with Prof. Mahon or schedule outside class

Oct. 3 – Artist Presentation & Work Period

- Talk by Artist: Augustin Rojas – 1:45-2:45
- 3:00 – 4:30 – Discussion (re: Test Prints) & Work Period

Oct. 10 – No Class – Fall Reading Week**Oct. 17 – Readings; Test Print Critique; Tornado Project Proposals Due**

3-4 Presentations (1 hr.): _____

- 2:30 Critique of Test Print (15% of Studio Total)
- 3:30 – 4:30 – Discussion & Work Period

Oct. 24 – Readings: Switch Groups re: Screen & Intaglio; Work Period

3-4 Presentations (1 hr.): _____

- 2:30 – 3:30 – Etching & Screen Refresher Demos and Test Print Assignment
- 3:30-4:30– Work Period
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Oct. 31 – Readings; Test Print Critique; Tornado Project Exhibition Discussion

3-4 Presentations (1 hr.): _____

- 2:30 Critique of Test Print (15% of Studio Total)
- 3:30 – 4:30 – Discussion & Work Period

Nov. 7 – Artist Presentations & Work Period

- Talks by Artists: (Siivonen? Fuhman?) 1:45-2:45
- 3:00 – 4:30 – Discussion & Work Period

Nov. 14 – Readings; Work Period

3-4 Presentations (1 hr.): _____

- 2:30-4:30– Work Period

Nov. 21 – Artist Presentations & Work Period

- Talks by Artists: (Moffatt? Trueman?) 1:45-2:45
- 3:00 – 4:30 – Interim Critique – *Tornado Project* (10% of TP Grade)

Nov. 28 – Readings; Work Period

3-4 Presentations (1 hr.): _____

- 2:30-4:30– Work Period

Dec. 5 – Final Critique

- Artist’s Statement Due : 5%

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| Due Dates: |
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First Test Print Critique Oct. 24 (15% of Portfolio Grade)

Second Test Print Critique: Oct. 31 (15% of Portfolio Grade)

Project Proposal (3 pages): Oct. 17 (5% of term)

Reading Presentations: As assigned

Artist’s Statement: Dec. 5 (5% of term)

Final Critique/Portfolio: Dec. 5 (70% of Portfolio Grade) Note: Interim Critique – Nov. 21 (10%)

Test Print Parameters: To be discussed Oct 3

Tornado Project Parameters: To be discussed Sept. 12, 19, 26

Reading Presentation: To be assigned Sept. 12

**Western Ontario
Visual Arts Department**

**Safety and Maintenance Sheet
Printmaking Studio, Room 106**

Faculty Responsibilities (in cooperation with the Technician):

- Inform students about safe use of toxic materials, acids, and solvent storage and ensure that students are following safe procedures.
- With technician, demonstrate proper use of presses, etching booths, exposure unit and other major technical equipment.
- Ensure that ventilation is operative and notify physical plant if a failure occurs.
- Inform students of general clean up duties and proper storage procedures for equipment and student work.
- Notify maintenance person concerning broken equipment and unsafe occurrences; assist with appropriate treatment of chemical spills.
- In case of an accident, notify emergency help at 911.

Student Responsibilities:

- Adhere to all safety practices in room 106 and the silk screen area; never work alone when supervision is out of close reach.
- Use tools and equipment appropriately and return everything to its rightful place.
- Follow all procedural guidelines as demonstrated by faculty and technician; notify faculty or technician concerning malfunctioning equipment.
- Store all work in drawers when dry; remove work from the room after it has been marked.
- Store or remove all plate materials; store screens in racks and remove other belongings from the screen area.
- Never remove equipment from room 106 or the screen area without written permission.
- Abide by directives from faculty, technician and approved monitors and work bursaries.
- If an accident occurs and emergency assistance is required, call 911.

Please note: According to University regulations guiding “Laboratory Use,” students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grade sent to the Registrar.

Technician Responsibilities:

- Support the pedagogical and technical goals of the program.
- Ensure that all equipment and supplies are available and well maintained.
- Oversee the delivery of technical demonstrations.
- Organize the exchange of materials and money when appropriate.
- Oversee the proper allotment of drawers and storage space.

VAS 2236A/B & VAS 3330