

SA 4608B Syllabus

Course: SA 4608B

Section: 001

Term: Winter 2021

Instructor: Geordie Shepherd

Office: VAC 213

Office Hours: 12:00 pm-1:00 pm on Tues

Western University Visual Arts Department

Title: **Advanced Interdisciplinary Open Studio II** Time: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm

Location: online

E-mail: gshephe@uwo.ca

Phone: *I will not be checking phone messages*

Technical Requirements



Stable Internet Connection



Working Microphone



Laptop or Computer



Working Webcam

Online Course Requirements

This course is virtual synchronous with virtual asynchronous components. This means that we will meet online as a group once a week to discuss weekly themes and research that students work on independently online prior to each session. The online meetings will allow for questions, discussions, introduction of projects and assignments as well as both process and final critiques of work. It is necessary for students to come to each synchronous session prepared, by reviewing all the material that has been posted for that day BEFORE the online group meets. This allows students to discuss the subject that was introduced and ask questions to clarify points that may arise.

Attendance at synchronous sessions is required. Asynchronous work must be completed prior to each session.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class. If students need assistance with technology, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Email correspondence and OWL announcements:

You are expected to regularly check your UWO email for class announcements. **Please make sure that your mailbox is not full!** If you have concerns or questions regarding this course, you should contact me by email gshephe@uwo.ca, or schedule a meeting during office hours. On weekdays, I will try to answer all emails within 24-48 hours. On weekends, I won't be able to answer emails until the following Monday.

Owl Course Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An advanced independent studio based course available for students in their fourth year of study in Studio Arts. SA 4606B is intended to aid students in continuing to develop a self-directed and professional artistic practice. Structured around studio research and experimentation, seminars, writing assignments, guest artist interviews and studio critiques, the course will serve to assist students in preparing themselves and their materials for professional artistic opportunities beyond their studies in a broad range of artistic communities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Application of Knowledge - Students will use their capacities with self-selected media as a critical and expressive tool to develop creative works. They will understand the potential viability of their works, and will use reflections on their works towards the development of a coherent body of work.
2. Communication Skills - Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing regarding their projects and its relationship within contemporary art and culture. Students will be able to apply specialized terminology to discussions in critiques, and be able to articulate the relevant historical and contemporary contexts informing each project under discussion.
3. Autonomy and Professional Capacity - Students will gain familiarity with working independently on projects of their own design and develop an awareness of the critical context in which they are working, both inside and outside of institutional situations.
4. Awareness of Limits of Knowledge - Students will have an awareness of the art world, and of differing arenas and audiences for art, and they will understand the function and appropriateness of their own creative strategies in relation to the immediate context as well as a broader context

Prerequisite(s): Registration in year 4 of a Major in Art History and Studio Arts, Honours Specialization in Art History and Studio Arts or Honours Specialization in Studio Arts (BFA), or permission of the Department.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Over the term students will be required to bring to resolution an evolving studio project, respond to writing assignments, as well as develop visual documentation appropriate to their work and curriculum vitae (CV). Projects will need to be completed outside of class time. Students should plan on at least six hours a week outside class time to complete assignments. All assignments, readings, and resources will be posted on OWL and it is the students' responsibility to regularly check emails and the course site regularly for updates.

Attendance: Students are expected to be present and prepared to thoroughly engage in all work periods, workshops and critiques. Students are expected to punctually attend all online class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. Recurrent problems with attendance, punctuality or preparedness will result in academic penalty. Under university regulations, students who miss more than 15% of the course hours (2 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 unreasonably late (30 minutes late or more), or leaving early (30 minutes early or more), they will not be considered as having participated in that class and will receive an absence for that day.

Only in exceptional circumstances will late assignments be accepted. Under such conditions an assignment may be submitted no later than one week after the due date, with a 10% grade deduction per day. Extensions due to documented health or bereavement reasons will be provided only upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor (see Department Policies below).

Visual Arts Building Safety Measures

Building Occupancy: in order to keep building occupancy low and allow for physical distancing, **only students enrolled in in-person classes will be allowed in the VAC for the Fall 2020 term.**

At this time, all Visual Arts classes are being offered online, unless students are also enrolled in VAS in-person courses, they are not allowed in the VAC at this time. **Work from Home:** students are encouraged to work from home when possible, and only to come to the Visual Arts Centre for class or completion of assignments.

Media Lab & Cohen Lab

All Fall 2020 Media Courses are being offered online, as such **the media lab is closed to undergraduate students.**

Sign-Out Equipment

As all Fall 2020 Media Courses are being offered online and due to the risks of transmission inherent with high-touch shared equipment **sign-out equipment will not be available to undergraduate students for the Fall 2020 year.**

Support Services:

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>*
- 2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>*
- 3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>*
- 4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>*
- 5. Mental Health -- https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/*

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/>.

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.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms:

Middlesex College does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO: http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.

Please contact the Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite (jslaue@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

Evaluation:

Self-Directed Studio Project (MIDTERM)	25%
Self-Directed Studio Project (END TERM)	25%
Written Responses (4 x 5%)	20%
Dossier	15%

Participation & Professionalism

15%

Participation & Professionalism: (includes attending and participating in all online class sessions, critiques, and completing weekly course work by the posted due dates).

Studio Art Grading Rubric

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.

Western University Visual Arts Department

POLICIES:

Statement on prerequisite checking:

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). 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.

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.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- i. *Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;*
- ii. *For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for*

Academic Consideration; or

- iii. *For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.*

Students seeking academic consideration:

Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;

Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. *Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;*

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2. *The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;*
3. *The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;*
4. *The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;*
5. *Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations*
6. *Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;*
7. *Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how*

they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

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.

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

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):

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.

For the 2020-2021 academic year the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be available by card access only for students who have in-person classes in the building.

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.

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

Electronic Devices:

During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during any tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

Support Services:

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7. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>

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