

Department of Visual Arts
Western University

**SA 3692B Special Topics in Visual Arts
Community Engagement Learning – Embroidering with the Guild**

Welcome to SA 3692B Embroidering with the Guild! I am very pleased that you have enrolled and I am looking forward to an excellent semester. This course outline and syllabus contain pertinent information about course components including our schedule with the Guild, art materials and a timeline of the assignments and assignment due dates. You will also find important information about learning outcomes, Western University's Grade Descriptors and your responsibilities as a student in the course. We will go over the course outline in class, but please do read this document thoroughly and refer to it throughout the semester.

Tricia Johnson

Course Description

This community engaged studio course aims to give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of textile arts by learning the skill of embroidery by partnering with the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London. Along with these new skills, students will use their past art-making experience in Visual Arts to work cooperatively with the Embroiderers' Guild to create a large embroidered artwork which will be permanently installed in a public space in London, Ontario. Alongside the production of the large, site-specific artwork, students will explore different techniques in embroidery, each producing an individual "sampler" which will document their experiences and learning in the course. Students will engage with the community by attending events and get-togethers organized by the Embroiderer's Guild and will reflect on their experience in the course with a short presentation or written response. Throughout the course, students will also initiate their own embroidery/ textile art research to further enhance their individual sampler artworks.

Course Information

Class Time and Location:	Tuesdays 11:30 am to 2:30pm John Labatt Visual Arts Centre room 234
Instructor:	Tricia Johnson Room 118, JLVAC 519-661-2111 x 85721 tcjohnso@uwo.ca
Embroiderer's Guild Members:	Deb Gorman-Smith

Pat Ferries
Linde Echinger
Judy Castle
Joy Lajoie-Cowell
Kathie Morgan
Marie Myers
Lynda Watson

Tricia's Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:00am, Room 200A

Online: To facilitate VAS, students can access the SA 3692B site through OWL
<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

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 a basis for 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.

Learning Outcomes

- *Depth and Breadth of Knowledge:* Students will acquire a range of technical skills required to engage in the material practice of embroidery. Some skills will be taught through our meetings with the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London but students will also be encouraged to research contemporary and historical embroidery work to assist in their material explorations. Students will also become familiar with the historical genesis of and terms associated with embroidery as well as contemporary discourses surrounding these materials through informal presentations during in-class work periods as well as sharing information outside of class time on OWL.
- *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain a further understanding of textile and fibre-based methodologies and the visual possibilities the media through practical applications as they create their own embroidery sampler and independent project.
- *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate orally regarding their projects through critique and class discussion, as well as expanding their ability to work with community members in order to research, design and complete their embroidered independent artwork.

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: Timeline in the Course Outline. All assignments, procedures and due dates are in the Syllabus: Timeline.

- Attendance for this course is 100% mandatory and it is expected that you will attend every class. If you are not attending class, the Department Policy for attendance will be implemented.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION:

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Please contact Professor Tricia Johnson after she has approved your academic considerations, in order to receive the new due date.

Outstanding assignments, that have been granted academic consideration, not received on the Final Day of University Classes for the Academic Year, as listed in the Academic Calendar, will be given a mark of 0 (zero).

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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 with the University and the community at large.
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

ATTENDANCE:

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments.

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; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero).

PLAGARISM:

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 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

Additional Course Material Request Policy

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Additional Requirements

- Students are expected to spend a minimum 1 to 2 hours outside of class for every one hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.
- Students must fill out the CEL Experiential Learning Agreement online at the beginning of the course.
- We may be travelling outside of the course in order to purchase embroidery supplies at Stitch It Central. Any such trips will be discussed in class with enough fair warning to organize transportation. In order to participate in such trips, students must have signed the CEL agreement.
- Because of the collaborative nature of this course, I expect everyone enrolled in the course to embrace this collaboration and work in a respectful and inclusive manner with each other and the members of the Guild. I hope to foster a positive and creatively exhilarating environment for everyone and I need your help to do so – Tricia.

ASSIGNMENTS DUE DATE POLICY:

- Each Assignment is due on the specified due date as posted in the Syllabus.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates. 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 need to hand in artwork late, please report a Self-Reported Absence or consult your Academic Counsellor, in your home faculty, to request academic considerations.
- **Late Assignments will only be accepted accompanied by academic considerations.**
- Students that received Academic Consideration for assignments will contact Prof. Johnson regarding how to submit their assignments.

- Any assignment to be submitted to OWL that has not been uploaded by the timed due date will receive 0 (zero) unless accompanied by academic considerations.
- Ensure you actually submitted your assignment to OWL by clicking on the submit button. Failure to submit on time will result in a failing grade.
- **Prof. Johnson does not accept Assignments for marking by email, attached to a discussion link on our OWL site, such as in VoiceThread, or in any other manner of submission. Such assignments will receive a zero.**
- Any assignment receiving academic considerations, and remains outstanding, is due on the last day of classes of the semester or term. Such assignments not received on the last day of class will be given a mark of 0 (zero).

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.

Electronic Devices:

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.

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.

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/uwoacom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 (jslauen@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

Assignments to be marked will be assessed and given a number grade, and written comments, based on specific grading rubrics pertaining to course assignments. All grades will be posted to OWL under the Gradebook Tab. The Commitment mark will be assigned at the end of the semester. The Gradebook will be hidden the following day of the last day of University scheduled classes in April in order for final marks to be submitted to the Registrar. Students will receive their final grade from the Registrar and the Gradebook will be available for view the first week of May.

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

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

Final Grade will be comprised as follows:

Embroidered Sampler	35%
Independent Project	35%
Research Presentation	20%
Commitment to Course	10%
<i>Which includes:</i>	
Attendance & Punctuality for all Scheduled Class Time	
Preparedness (bringing materials to class)	
Work Ethic in class, including cleaning up	
Attention, Participation & Engagement in Class events	

Materials:

At the beginning of the course, we may take an optional field trip to ***Stitch-It Central***, a stitching shop in London (1161 Hamilton Road, LONDON, 519-601-5901) in order to buy supplies for your Embroidered Sampler and Independent Project.

Students are also welcomed to purchase supplies at any other retailer or use supplies and materials they already have.

You will need the following basic supplies. We will discuss the supplies thoroughly in class before the field trip

- **Embroidery hoop** – 8” to 12” inches is popular
- **Scissors** – small, sharp embroidery scissors are best
- **Thimble** – many students find a thimble helpful for pushing needle through fabric
- **Threads/Floss** – buy a large range of colours, DMC cotton floss is preferred
- **Fabric for Individual Sampler and Independent Project** – cotton or linen is best, purchase or thrift store finds
- **Needles** – needles specifically designed for embroidery are best
- **Needle case** – to hold your needles
- **Needle Threader** – this is a helpful tool – Pat Ferries may supply class
- **Container for supplies and projects** – student’s choice