

The University of Western Ontario Department of Visual Arts

Course: **VAS 3382B: Honors Studio Seminar II**

Term: Winter 2019

Time: Thursday 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: VAC 249

Professor: **David Merritt**

E-mail: dmerritt@uwo.ca

Office: VAC 233

Office Hours: Thursday 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appt.

TA: **TBA**

E-mail:

Prerequisite for Entry: VAS 2282A/B and Registration in the BFA program or permission of the department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A studio and theory based seminar course required for students in the third year of their Honors Specialization in Studio Arts. The course will focus on assisting students in preparing for their portfolio review, which is required for entry into Practicum. Structured around technical workshops, seminars, writing assignments, gallery outings, artist lectures and studio critiques, VAS 3382 is also intended to aid students in developing a self-directed and professional artistic practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with their chosen medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to direct the development of a coherent body of work

2. Communication Skills

Students will be able to communicate regarding their projects in writing and orally and articulate its relationship to relevant 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Over the term students will be required to produce an evolving studio project, a research assignment, writing and collaborative assignments, as well as developing appropriate visual documentation of their work and curriculum vitae (cv). Studio projects must be developed outside of course time and students should plan on at least eight hours a week outside class time to complete assignments. A collective class exhibition or document of student's studio work completed over the term will be collaboratively organized towards the end of term. All assignments, readings, resources will be posted on OWL and it is the students' responsibility to check emails and the course site regularly for updates.

At the start of the term students will submit a written summary describing their intended studio project thematic and medium, as well as a timetable for its completion. At midterm a revised summary will be presented accounting for changes in the project based on work to date and student research. Written and oral communication skills will also be developed through exhibition and artist's talk reviews (200 words each) and on-line class discussion groups. Student will develop and track personally directed research through the maintenance of journal and production of a research project.

Students are expected to be present and participate thoroughly in all work periods, workshops and critiques. Students are expected to punctually attend all 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. Missing more than 15% of class time may result in students' debarment from submitting further coursework. Students arriving late to critiques may not be permitted to present their work.

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).

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Materials required for this course will vary depending on each student's self-directed projects. Photographic equipment can be borrowed from the Sign Out Office, for a list of hours and available equipment:

<http://www.uwo.ca/visarts/resources/signout.html>. Work

Work space and artwork storage will be arranged as required.

EVALUATION

Self-Directed Studio Project (mid term)	15%
Self-Directed Studio Project (end term)	20%
200 Word Reviews (4 x 5%)	20%
Artist Journals	10%
Research Project/Log and Bibliography	10%
Statement and Artwork Documentation	5%
Peer Interview/Critical Assessment	5%
Participation	10%
Attendance/Punctuality*	5%

* Attendance records are kept for all students. Grades for attendance will be calculated accordingly: Perfect attendance= 5%, 1 absence= 4%, 2= 2%, 3=1%, 4 = 0%. Note: 3 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. Evaluation of participation will be based on consistency of students' preparation, active engagement and effective contribution to in-class discussions and activities. Students arriving unreasonably late, or leaving early, will not be considered as having participated in a class. Students arriving late for critique will not be assured discussion of their work with the class.

GRADING

Grades will be determined by the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

- 1) Investment in and contribution to all class activities.
- 2) Comprehension of assignment requirements and objectives
- 3) Ambition, development and resolution of conceptual, technical and creative aspects of all work.

Grades break down as follows:

A+/90-100%	Outstanding. Exceeds expectations and assignment requirements. Demonstrates a clear understanding of, and development beyond, the assignment objectives. Profound originality and thought is evident.
A/80-89%	Excellent. Exceeds expectations and assignment requirements. Excellent originality and thought is evident.
B/70-79	Great/Very good/Good. A good grasp of the assignment requirements and objectives is evident, or excellent grasp in one assignment component, balanced with a satisfactory grasp in another aspect of the assignment.
C/60-69%	Satisfactory. A satisfactory grasp of the assignment requirements and objectives is evident.
D/50-59%	Marginal. A superficial grasp of the assignment requirements and objectives is evident.
F/below 50%	Unsatisfactory.