

Department of Visual Arts  
Western University

## **VAS 2236a Introduction to Print Media**

Welcome to Introduction to 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.

**Tricia Johnson**

### **Calendar Description**

An introduction to print media practices including relief, intaglio, and silkscreen.

**Please Note:** Students are responsible for ensuring they have successfully completed all course prerequisites (VAS 1020 or VAS 1025) and that they have not taken an anti-requisite 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 an introduction to learn the fundamental print processes and techniques of relief, intaglio and silkscreen. Students will also consider contemporary and historical issues of print media through readings, discussions and critiques that will enhance and deepen the student's artistic production. Students will create a body of work over the semester that demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the technical skills and quality necessary to produce work that is, in addition, critically well informed.

### **Course Format**

The semester will consist of 3 large student-interpreted assignments, given by the instructor, for each of the 3 print processes taught. Each large print assignment will begin with a slide lecture by the instructor and a thorough demonstration of the techniques involved in the print process, by the technician. Post demonstration, students will review technical procedures through three quizzes on OWL. Students will also give preliminary presentations to the class about their visual intentions for each assignment. Several work periods are scheduled for students to work in class in order to receive the instructor and the technician's assistance. Each print assignment will also incorporate a preliminary in-progress critique and will conclude with a collaborative class critique, assessing student's preliminary intentions compared to their finished work. As well, 3 readings, posted on OWL under the Assignment Tool, are the focus of 3 written responses that will further inform students understanding of specific printmaking concepts.

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 2236b**

## Course Information

**Instructor:** Professor Tricia Johnson  
Room 215, JLVAC  
519-661-2111 x 85721  
[tcjohnso@uwo.ca](mailto:tcjohnso@uwo.ca)

**Technician:** Jessica Woodward  
[jwoodwa5@uwo.ca](mailto:jwoodwa5@uwo.ca)

**Class:** John Labatt Visual Arts Centre room 106  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 to 11:30am

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:30 – 3pm or by appointment

**Online:** To facilitate VAS 2236a, students can access the VAS 2236a OWL SAKAI site through  
**OWL / Sakai Documentation** <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

## Learning Outcomes

- *Depth and Breadth of Knowledge:* Students will acquire a range of fundamental technical skills required to engage in the material practice of printmaking. Students will also become familiar with the historical genesis and terms of the print material areas being studied as well as contemporary opinions of such materials.
- *Knowledge of Methodologies:* Students will gain an understanding of print methodologies and visual possibilities of each media through practical applications; specifically working through the technical process of each media when creating their work.
- *Communication Skills:* Students will be able to communicate orally regarding their projects through critique. Students will also practice their answering skills in our reading discussion seminars.

## Attendance, Preparedness, Working in Class

- VAS 2236a is a Studio class, therefore all the instruction happens in the studio. **Full attendance is mandatory.** 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.
- Even with academic accommodation missing a considerable amount of the class could result in the 15% regulation being applied.
- 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 periods.
- 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 participation 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. **Two weeks 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 <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> 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 in Introduction to Print Media 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.

## Reading Responses on OWL

Three readings will be posted on OWL during the semester; due dates are in the Syllabus: Timeline. Students will upload written responses to asked questions about the article on OWL on the Assignments Tool by the timed due date. It is expected that students read the article fully and answer the questions fully as well as stating opinions meaningfully and citing any sources appropriately. *If you miss the due date and do not submit a written answer on OWL, you forfeit the assignment and will receive a zero (0). Please pay attention to such deadlines and seek Academic Accommodation if you missed the deadline due to illness or bereavement.*

## Working during scheduled Work Sessions on Tuesdays & Thursdays

It is imperative that students work during our class work sessions. **STUDENTS MUST SHARE THE EQUIPMENT AND WORK TOGETHER. MOST EQUIPMENT IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST TO USE BASIS.**

Attending and using the time effectively to work on your assignments during such sessions is factored into the Attendance/ Commitment rubric (i.e. socialize during break). Failure to work in class periods will not only affect student's Attendance/ Commitment marks drastically, but will affect the success of their course assignments.

### **Print shop Access**

The Print shop is open with access Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm except during VAS 3330 which meets 1:30 to 5:30 pm on Wednesday afternoons. The shop is open from 12:00 (noon) to 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Students must work in these specified times and **must** work with a buddy for safety reasons. If you somehow manage to work in the print shop outside the scheduled hours, you may be asked by Campus Police to leave the premise or face trespassing charges.

### **Print shop Conduct**

Please be respectful of each other in the Print shop outside of class. Share the facilities equitably and also support a productive learning and working environment for everyone through your actions and words. Everyone who is registered in the course deserves to work in a respectful environment. As well, respect other people's time by using the shop, which includes the materials and presses, efficiently.

### **Working on your Assignments by yourself**

It is expected that you create all your assignments with your own hands. Your boyfriend/girlfriend, classmate, best friend or any other individual cannot do the technical work for your assignments. Having unauthorized assistance to produce technical results that will be marked could be considered an academic offense and could result in a failing technical grade (zero = 0). If you need assistance technically, you must consult Tricia, your academic advisor and/or your SSD advisor.

### **Evaluation**

Every Print Assignment will have an in-progress critique, which will be given a mark out of 20. In-progress artwork will be given comments based only on technical issues in the work. Finished Assignments will be marked and assessed and given an additional number grade out of 80, based on the grading rubric of Creative, Conceptual, Technical/Material and Resolution (mark out of 20 each). Students' artwork will be given verbal comments during critiques and written comments with each grade.

### **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:**

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

## The Final Grade will be comprised of

Print Assignments – **75% (relief 30%, etching 25%, screen 20%)**

Demonstration Quizzes on OWL – **6% (2% each)**

Online OWL reading submissions – **12% (4% each)**

Attendance and working in class – **7% (please see rubric below)**

## Attendance/ Commitment Rubric

The following are general guidelines as to how I will mark attendance but any combination of missing class, lateness, leaving early and not working during set work periods will affect your mark.

(If you are really sick with a cold or other virus – i.e. a sickness that does not need a doctor's visit –but cannot come to class and there is nothing due that day, email me – no need to see your academic advisor. If you are sick and miss a deadline however, get documentation and submit to your academic advisor for accommodation so you can submit your assignment late with no penalty)

**Full 7 marks** – 100% attendance, no lates, no leaving early, *working diligently in class always*

**6/7 marks** - missing 1 class (with documentation), OR late once

**5/7 marks** -missing 1 class (no documentation), OR late twice, OR leaving early once

**4/7 marks** – missing 2 classes (no documentation), OR late 3 times, OR leaving early twice

**3/7 marks** – missing 3 classes (no documentation), OR late 4 times, or leaving early twice

**2/7 marks** – missing 4 classes (no documentation), OR late 5 times, or leaving early three times

**1/7 marks** – missing 5 classes (no documentation) – a warning will be issued

**0/7 marks** – missing 6 classes (no documentation) – a warning will be issues

## 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.
- **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 [www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html#](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)

Website: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **Materials/Supplies and Fees**

All materials will be discussed on the first class and throughout the semester. Students will be expected to purchase some allotted materials from the instructor and to purchase materials individually. In addition there is an ink fee of \$ 90.00 per student for the semester. This fee may increase due to unexpected increases in costs. The ink fee covers several materials, which will be discussed in class.

### **INCLUDED IN LAB FEE:**

Linoleum	Rags and Solvents	Screen Emulsion
Relief Inks	All cleaning supplies	and MANY other things
Copper plate	All etching grounds	
Etching Inks	Tarleton for etching (and other hard to find etching supplies)	

(Plan to spend on average another \$100 to \$150 on supplies including your paper, screen and screen ink)

### **Basic Supplies (to be supplied by individual students – you may already have these things)**

Apron  
Pencil  
Permanent Marker  
Olfa cutting knife  
Metal Ruler  
Scissors

### ***Masking Tape (you need this for all 3 assignments!!!!!!)***

Neoprene Gloves (available from the Chemistry Supply store)  
Safety Goggles (splash goggles are used when etching and owned by department, safety goggles can also be purchased and the Chemistry Supply store)

### **Linoleum Supplies**

Linoleum Cutter with several grooves  
Acetate for registration sheet

### ***Newsprint (large size – you need a lot of newsprint)***

Suitable proofing and editioning paper see below

### **Etching Supplies**

Burnisher (optional)  
Scraper (optional)  
Etching Needle (many options discussed in class)  
Newsprint  
Suitable proofing and editioning paper see below

### **Screen Supplies**

**INK** – permanent acrylic water-based or fabric water-based  
**SCREEN** – new screens and pre-owned screens are available from the technician  
Stencils of image, separating the colours (hand drawn or digital)  
Sharpie Oil pen marker (optional)  
Acetate for registration

Spatulas  
Containers for holding ink  
Newsprint

## Papers

Jessica sells most of the paper you need to make your prints. However, you must purchase paper from her during her working hours. Please **do** write your name on each sheet of your good paper, on the back side

- Arnhem – Good for proofing and editioning for Relief and Etching
- Stonehenge for proofing (relief)
- BFK Rives, white, cream, gray or warm golden colour (BEST PAPER FOR ETCHING)
- Somerset **Satin** White or Cream (BEST PAPER FOR RELIEF)
- Arches (good paper for relief and etching)
- various papers for screen will be discussed in class

**CAUTION:** *Lock your print drawer and place anything of importance in your other locker. Do not steal each other's lino tools, acetates, paper or anything else. Stealing is an offense and is grounds for being removed from the university, permanently.*

**Western University  
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