

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts  
Fall 2018  
**VAH 1042A: Art, Science and Technology**  
Lecture: Thursday 2:30 – 4:20 PM – MC Room 110

Professor: Prof. Joy James

Office: VAC Room 120

Email: [jjames53@uwo.ca](mailto:jjames53@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00PM or by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Leah Abaza

[labaza@uwo.ca](mailto:labaza@uwo.ca)

Office Hours

VAC 242

Nakasuk Alariaq

[nalariaq@uwo.ca](mailto:nalariaq@uwo.ca)

VAC 242

Irabody Kazi

[ikazi3@uwo.ca](mailto:ikazi3@uwo.ca)

VAC 242

Brad Morosan

[bmorosan@uwo.ca](mailto:bmorosan@uwo.ca)

VAC 240

Meghan O'Neill

[moneil53@uwo.ca](mailto:moneil53@uwo.ca)

VAC 242

Bruno Sinder

[bsinder@uwo.ca](mailto:bsinder@uwo.ca)

VAC 240

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the foundation of art history through a focus on the relations between art, science, and technology. In lectures and through online delivery, using images, texts, podcasts and videos, the basis for understanding characteristic ways of knowing generated by various forms of inquiry will be examined. From crossovers between art historians and archaeologists in the investigation of European Ice Age cave art, through to contemporary collaborative work being done by teams of artists and biologists, we will explore the interconnections of art, science, and technology. From history to theory, to criticism and analysis, you will become familiar with the disciplinary differences and similarities intrinsic to organizing and making sense of images and objects within the historical, social and political contexts of their production and circulation.

**Course Delivery Model:**

This is a blended format course based on the model of a 2-hour weekly lecture supported by online activities to provide a range of access to the materials and ideas presented.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to assist you in gaining:

- knowledge about the relation of art to science and technology in a series of diverse historical contexts
- familiarity with terminology, methods and theories employed in the study of art and recognizing differences and similarities to those employed in the study of science and technology
- competency in the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired in the course

**Required Readings and Podcasts:**

All required readings and podcasts are posted on OWL/Sakai Course site:

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

You access this site by using the same ID and password as your UWO email account.

**Additional Resource:**

A digital copy of Grant Poole and Diana Newall's *Art History: The Basics* (Routledge 2008) is available through Western Libraries:

[bin/ezpauthn.cgi?url=http://www.mylibrary.com?id=131359](http://www.mylibrary.com?id=131359)

The text provides information regarding key terms, concepts, theories and methodologies used in the discipline of Art History. Please consult the course text access instructions on course OWL/Sakai site.

**Grade Distribution:**

In-Class Test	10%	October 04
Essay Assignment	20%	Due October 25
Take home Test	20%	Due November 22
Lecture Attendance and Participation	15%	Ongoing
Final Exam	35%	(3hr December Exam Period)
Total	100%	

**Online Tutorial/Discussion Groups:**

The course uses a model of 2-hour lecture, 1-hour assigned online activities. Student participation is virtually supported by the course WebCT site, OWL/Sakai, that provides access to necessary information and resources, and a small group forum for discussion. Attendance in lectures and timely completion of weekly online activity is mandatory. Review of weekly lecture materials, assignment requirements, and opportunity for discussion of assigned readings and podcasts are available through the OWL WebCT site. Please note: All online assignments for required readings and podcasts listed below are to be completed and submitted before the week's lecture.

**Syllabus**

Week 1

Thursday, September 6

Introduction

Week 2

Thursday, September 13

Disciplining Knowledge

Required Reading: *The Basics of Art* (online resource) "Chapter 1. Art Theories and Art Histories" pp. 1 -31

Week 3

Thursday, September 20

The Laboratory and the Studio

Required Reading: Daniel Buren "The Function of the Studio" pp. 1-7, and "The Function of the Studio Revisited" pp. 1-3. Required listening: "How to Think about Science" Part 1

Week 4

Thursday, September 27

Seeing Science through Representational Practices

Required Reading: Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison *Objectivity*, "Prologue; Preface" pp.9-16

Week 5  
Thursday, October 04  
**In-Class Test**

Week 6  
Thursday, October 11  
READING WEEK – NO CLASSES [October 09 – 12]

Week 7  
Thursday, October 18  
Technologies and the Information Revolution  
Required Reading: Walter Benjamin “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” pp. 1 - 20

Week 8  
Thursday, October 25  
World on Display – The Great Exhibitions  
Required Reading: Donald Preziosi “Haunted by Things” pp. 1 - 9  
**Essay Due**

Week 9  
Thursday, November 01  
Art, Technology and Modernism  
Required Reading: Donald Preziosi “Practicing the Self” pp. 1 - 9

Week 10  
Thursday, November  
The Making of the Modern World: Colonialism, Imperialism, Orientalism  
Required Reading: *The Basics of Art* (online resource) “Chapter 8. Globalised proximities and perspectives” pp. 192 - 211  
**Take home test distributed – Due at beginning of class on November 22**

Week 11  
Thursday, November 15  
No lecture today.  
TAs available for face-2-face meetings and consultation

Week 12  
Thursday, November 22  
Seeing Photographically – Medicine  
No required reading today.  
**Take-home test due at beginning of today’s class**

Week 13  
Thursday, November 29  
Seeing Photographically – Psychiatry  
Required reading: Walter Benjamin “A Little History of Photography” pp. 1 - 17

Week 14  
Thursday, December 06  
Final Exam Review

(Study Days: December 08 – 09 / Exam Period: December 10-21)

**Western University  
Visual Arts Department**

**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](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_19)

**Attendance:**

A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

**Prerequisites:**

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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 1170). (Refer to

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_189](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.

**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 Health:**

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

[https://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

**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](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 University College Room 2230.

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)

**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](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169)

**The University of Western Ontario – Department of Visual Arts****Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History**

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

**90-100 (Outstanding, A+)**

The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

**80-89 (Excellent, A)**

The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

**75-79 (Very Good, B+)**

The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

**70-74 (Good, B)**

The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

**60-69 (Competent, C)**

The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

**50-59 (Marginal, D)**

The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is

considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

**Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)**

The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.

## Sessional Dates Fall/Winter 2018-2019

**\* Note:** Any of the following deadlines that occur on a Saturday or Sunday or Statutory holiday will be extended to the next working day.

### 2018

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September 3	Labour Day. Western University Closed
Thursday, September 6	Fall/Winter Term classes begin.
September 14	Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies.
October 8	Thanksgiving Holiday. Western University Closed.
October 09-12	Fall Reading Week.
November 12 *	Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty.
November 15-December 6	AJE
November 30 *	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course [on campus day and evening and Distance Studies] without academic penalty.
Friday, December 7	Fall/Winter Term classes end.
December 08-09	Study Days.
December 10-21	Mid-year / Fall term examination period.

### 2019

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Monday, January 7	Classes resume.
January 15	Last day to add a second-term half course or a second-term full course.
February 18	Family Day. Western University Closed
February 19-22	Spring Reading Week.
March 7 *	Last day to drop a second-term half course, or a second-term full course without academic penalty.
Tuesday, April 9	Fall/Winter Term classes end.
April 10	Study Day.
April 11-30	Final examination period.
April 19	Good Friday. Western University Closed
April 21	Easter Sunday.
April 22	Easter Monday Western University Open