

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
Fall 2018

VAH 2241F: Theories and Practices of Art History and Visual Culture

Monday 2:30 – 5:30PM, NCB114

Professor: Dr. Joy James
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00PM
(and by appointment)

Office: VAC Room 120
Email: jjames53@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistants: VAC Room 240
Ruth Skinner – rskinne6@uwo.ca

Office Hours
TBA

Course Description:

This course provides a brief introduction to historical and contemporary theories, methods, and practices for the study of art history and visual culture. Students will become familiar with the history of ideas that has shaped art historical investigation and the study of visual culture. From theory, to history, to criticism and analysis, students will study disciplinary and institutional specificities intrinsic to organizing knowledge and epistemological systems. Through the examination of a diverse range of visual production—from pictographs to digital media, the construction of public space in ancient civilizations to the Internet, early medical illustration to current technological imaging systems—course content presents theoretically informed approaches to think critically about the many ways in which art and visual culture function.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to assist you in gaining:

- knowledge about the historical and contemporary theories and practices of art history and visual culture studies
- familiarity with disciplinary terminology employed in the study of art history and visual culture studies and its application to the history of ideas
- competency in the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired in the course

Required Readings:

All required course readings and other resources will be 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.

Course Protocols:

Office Hours/Email: Please see course instructor jjames53@uwo.ca, or Teaching Assistant Ruth Skinner rskinne6@uwo.ca, during office hours when you have course-related questions or concerns. Office hours are listed on the top of this course outline. Course instructor will respond to emails within a 24-hour period, excepting emails sent after 4:00pm on Fridays—these will be answered the following Monday.

Assignment Submissions: All materials submitted must be work done entirely by the student, expressly for this course. Please consult the Writing Centre if you have any confusion regarding definitions of academic honesty within University practices. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of policies governing academic honesty and what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating. Writing Centre, UCC Room 217; <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>

Citation Style Guidelines:

The Department of Visual Arts adheres to Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. A set of guidelines to be used for any written assignment submission is posted on the course OWL site.

Late Assignment Policies: Hard copies of all assignments must be submitted when due unless there are mitigating and documented circumstances. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical or other 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. Please note instructors are not permitted to grant accommodation in these circumstances.**

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, **totalling less than 10% of final course grade** may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): student.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading.

All other late assignments will lose 10% per day for two days only, and no late assignment submission without accommodation will be accepted following the two-day limit.

Grade Distribution:

Attendance, Participation	15%	Ongoing
Take-home Test	20%	Due October 15, 2018
Thought Paper	35%	Due November 05, 2018
Final Exam (In-class)	30%	December 03, 2018
Total	100%	

Course Structure:

This lecture/discussion course is virtually supported by a course WebCT site that provides access to information, resources and on-line activities. Lecture attendance is recorded each week and attendance is a mandatory component for successful completion of the course. Instruction on how to approach the assigned required readings will be covered during the weekly lectures. A detailed weekly schedule and PDFs of the weekly lecture powerpoint will be distributed to course participants via the OWL course site.

Syllabus

Week 1

Monday, September 10, 2018

Introduction to course

Week 2

Monday, September 17, 2018

Ideology

Required Reading:

Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* 1848 [pp. 2-12]

Louis Althusser, "Philosophy as a Revolutionary Weapon" 1968 [pp.16-25]

Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" 1969 [pp.139-140]

Week 3

Monday, September 24, 2018

Semiotics

Required Reading:

Roland Barthes, "Preface 1954," [pp. viii-x] "Preface 1970," [pp. xi-xii] "Family of Man," [pp.196-199], *Mythologies*, 1972

Roland Barthes, "Rhetoric of the Image" 1977 [pp.135-138]

Week 4

Monday, October 01, 2018

Psychoanalysis

Required Reading:

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, "Chapter 2" pp. 121-145

Jacques Lacan, "What is a Picture?" 1973 [pp.126-128]

Take-home test distributed and discussed at the end of today's class

Week 5

Monday, October 08, 2018

Thanksgiving Day – No Class

FALL READING WEEK: OCTOBER 9 – 12TH

Week 6

Monday, October 15, 2018

Deconstructions

Required Reading:

Michel Foucault "What is an Author" pp.101 - 120

Take-home test due at the beginning of today's class – No extensions

Week 7

Monday, October 22, 2018

Feminism's Challenge

Required Reading:

Guerrilla Girls' "Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art" pp. 349-353

bell hooks, "Black Female Spectators" pp. 94 – 105

Linda Nochlin, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artist's" pp. 229 - 233

Week 8

Monday, October 29, 2018

Postcolonialism

Required Reading:

Trinh T. Minh-ha, *DIFFERENCE*, "A special third world women issue" pp. 150-174

Franz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness" pp. 129 – 131

Malek Alloula, "From the Colonial Harem" pp. 519 - 524

Week 9

Monday, November 05, 2018

Postmodernism

No Required Reading today

Thought Paper due at beginning of today's class – No extensions

Week 10

Monday, November 12, 2018

Modernism's Others

Required Reading:

Marcia Crosby, "Construction of the Imaginary Indian"

Week 11

Monday, November 19, 2018

Queer Theory, Gender Variability

Required Reading:

Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An essay in phenomenology and feminist theory" pp. 392 – 401

Sandy Stone, "A Posttranssexual Manifesto" pp. 187 - 191

Week 12

Monday, November 26, 2018

Anthro-political

Reading:

Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto" pp. 471 - 497

Rosi Braidotti, "Cyberfeminism with a difference" pp. 530 - 533

Week 13

Monday, December 03, 2018

In-class Exam

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

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, 7th ed., p. 1170). (Refer to

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/ 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). 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) 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.

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; or check out their website at 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

June 13, 2018

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

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

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