

Western University, Department of Visual Arts  
**SEMINAR IN CONTEMPORARY ART:**  
**Globalization & After**  
VAH 4478G - WINTER 2019



Richard Mosse, still from *Incoming*, 2016

Class time: Tuesdays 11:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Location: VAC 247

**Professor Sarah Bassnett**

EMAIL – [sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca](mailto:sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca)

Office hours – Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 219

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This seminar examines themes in art since 1980 through the lens of globalization. Globalization has been described as one of the most important changes in human history, and although difficult to define, it is typically associated with an increase in the movement and connectedness of people, goods, information, and knowledge, along with new systems and networks to regulate or expedite their flow. In this course, we focus on the work of artists who have explored issues connected to globalization and after. This includes themes such as: migration and cultural displacement, human rights, inter-cultural exchange, surveillance capitalism, and the Anthropocene. We also consider how artists are responding to the current wave of authoritarian populism and state protectionism. Students will develop their own research projects in relation to the course theme.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate works and exhibitions of contemporary art using appropriate terminology.
- Conduct research using library resources, such as books and journal articles in databases, and use the sources effectively in a research essay.

- Articulate an argument orally and in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments.
- Apply knowledge of issues and debates in contemporary art to develop their own views, and articulate their ideas clearly in oral and written form.
- Solve problems by participating constructively in group discussions and activities. This includes sharing ideas and listening respectfully to the views of others.

**PREREQUISITE**

The prerequisite for the course is VAH 2278E Art since 1945 or VAH 2281F/G. If you have not taken this course, you require permission of the Professor or the Department. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as the basis for an appeal.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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Required readings for this course are available as PDFs on OWL. Go to the Resources folder and then Readings folder.

**Class preparation:**

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have done the readings in preparation for the day they are listed. Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

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**PARTICIPATION – 10%** (weekly)

**READING RESPONSE JOURNAL – 10%**

**TEST – 25%** (March 19)

**RESEARCH PROJECT – proposal 10%, presentation 10%, and final essay 35%**

Your research essay should focus on a body of work by one contemporary artist.

**GRADING**

Participation	10%	weekly
Proposal	10%	due Feb. 14 by 4 pm
Reading Response Journal	10%	due March 11 by 4 pm
Test	25%	March 19
Presentation	10%	April 2 or 9
Final essay	35%	due April 9