

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts**

**Course: Image Explorations Visual Arts Studio 2100B**

Term: Winter 2019

Time: Friday 9:30 – 1:30

Location: VAC 206

Instructor: Geordie Shepherd

Office: VAC 213

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00 am, or by appointment Friday 1:30-2:30 pm

email: gshephe@uwo.ca

**Course Description**

This introductory course explores two-dimensional design and image generation through the understanding of formal principles, such as composition and colour theory, the examination of critical frameworks through lectures and discussions, and the growth of creative literacy through the use of student generated Image libraries. Classes will consist of varying combinations of image lectures, discussions and technical demonstrations, critiques and studio time.

Students will produce a body of work demonstrating their understanding of the technical skills and concepts presented in each section, and their discovery and engagement of their own creative process.

**Learning Outcomes**

Depth & breadth of Knowledge: Students will acquire a fundamental knowledge of the basic formal and technical concepts and vocabulary of drawing.

Knowledge of Methodology: Students will gain an understanding of drawing and painting's critical potential, be able to identify various ways drawing and paintings operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects.

Application of Knowledge: Students will engage their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the critical potential of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects in order to create a body of work.

**Classroom Conduct**

- Be on time and be prepared to work with all necessary materials
- Clean your work space and the room after each work session. Please do not leave a mess.
- Respect each other's focus and be considerate when sharing studio equipment, and during any discussions and demonstrations.
- If you prefer to listen to your own music, please use ear buds but remove them during announcements or demonstrations.

**Owl Course Site:** <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Readings and documents pertaining to lessons will be posted on Owl/ Sakai in the resources folder. It is your responsibility to ensure you read and understand them before class time.

**Cell Phones & Social Media**

Cell phones & computers should not be used during class time for any purpose other than research directly related to the course. All ringers or devices should be turned off before class begins. Persistent distractions affect your ability to focus and your participation and professionalism grade.

**Coursebook:**

We will be referring to the following book. It is available for purchase through the University bookstore:  
200 Projects to Strengthen Your Art Skills: For Aspiring Art Students. Author: Valerie Colston

## Course Requirements

Attendance: Students are expected to punctually attend all class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. This is a Studio course, and great emphasis is placed upon in-class work, feedback and discussion. Under university regulations, 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.

Students arriving unreasonably late (30 minutes or more), or leaving early without notice, will be marked as absent. Arriving to class without required materials or being unprepared for critiques will adversely affect your participation and professionalism grade.

Materials and Sketchbooks: Students should take notes on all lectures, presentations and class discussions and have a journal or sketchbook that they carry around with them.

Communications: Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates in the syllabus or announced on OWL. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.

Due Dates: Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates stated in the syllabus unless a previous agreement has been made with the instructor. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor can result in a failing grade. Penalty for late work is 3% per day (21% per week). No late work will be accepted 3 weeks, or later, after the assigned due date (grade = 0).

Students are expected to spend a minimum of one hour outside of class for every hour in class towards fulfilling course requirements.

Students must adhere to health and safety guidelines in accordance with departmental regulations, continued failure to comply could result in removal from the course with a failing grade.

Unless specifically given as a homework project, all assignments must be worked on in class. Assignments not seen in progress by the instructor will not be accepted for grading.

Critiques: Critiques are intended for you to respond to your peers' work and to your own and not a platform for the instructor to speak solely. Analyzing one's own work and the work of others is an important skill that requires practice to develop. If you are uncomfortable with this, please let me know. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL CRITIQUES IS MANDATORY.** Missing a critique without prior consultation can seriously affect your grade for that project.

Lockers: Students will be assigned shared lockers for use during the term. Be respectful of others by keeping the work and supplies safe and in an orderly fashion. Students are required to clean out their belongings at the end of the term. The department cannot be held responsible for any materials or work left beyond this deadline.

## Safety and Maintenance

### Faculty Responsibilities:

- Inform students about safe use of toxic materials and ensure that students are following safe procedures. In case of an emergency, call 911.
- Instruct students in the proper use of the spray booth in room 230 if they wish to use aerosol fixatives. (The door of the booth must be **closed** when in use.)
- At the end of each class, return props and drapes to the model closet.
- At the end of each class, return space heaters and skeleton to room 206A, and opaque projectors, slide projectors, etc. to room 244. In the case of evening classes, equipment may be stored in your office and returned the next day.
- Notify Marlene Jones of any burnt-out bulbs, broken or missing furniture, broken window blinds, etc.
- Inform students about general cleanup (including removal of paint, etc., from table surfaces), about storage of work in progress, and removal of completed marked work.
- Supervise students' adherence to the maintenance requirements listed below, under the heading "Student Responsibilities".

### Student Responsibilities:

- When using paint, remember that some pigments are more hazardous than others. Take special care with cadmium colours, cobalt colours, manganese colours, zinc white, flake white, cerulean blue, vermilion red, burnt and raw umber.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while painting since these activities may lead to accidental ingestion of paint.
- Use aerosol fixative only in the spray booth in Room 230 or outdoors. Fine mists from these sprays can penetrate deep into the lungs.
- Flammable fixatives must be stored in the flammable cabinet located in the spray booth in 230 and not in your locker.
- At the end of each class, remove work-in-progress from easels, A-frames and walls, and store these works in your locker or storage racks.
- At the end of each class, clean all table surfaces. Throw used jars and other containers, and dirty rags and paper towels, into the garbage containers.
- **Take home all completed graded work.**
- Replace drawing boards in the model closet.
- Wash your hands thoroughly when you are finished working with dry or wet pigments or inks. Use a good hand cream after washing with soap, in order to prevent damage to your skin's natural defensive barrier.

**Please note: According to University regulations guiding "Laboratory Use," students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grades sent to the Registrar.**

**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)

**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/](https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) 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)

June 13, 2018

## PROJECTS and MATERIALS

### **Evaluation:**

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|--|-----|
| Project #1 (Drawing)                                       | 25% |
| Project #2 (Process & Transformation)                      | 25% |
| Project #3 (Image exploration & creation)                  | 25% |
| Sketchbook   | 10% |
| Participation (10% class & 5% Image Library participation) | 15% |

### Grading Criteria

- Creativity, resourcefulness & ambition;
- Proficiency in materials/ processes;
- Understanding goals and process of the assignment;
- Resolution of the finished work (technical, concept and presentation-wise)