

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

Course: **VAS 2282A** Fall 2018  
 Title: BFA Studio Seminar 1  
 Section 001  
 Location: VAC 249  
 Time: Friday 10:30 - 2:30

Instructor: **David Merritt**  
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**Course Description**

Visual Arts 2282 is a second year studio/theory seminar course required for students taking an Honors Specialization in Studio Arts. The focus of the course is the development of an informed, self-directed studio practice in the context of an introduction to the methods and practices of professional artists. Structured around workshops, seminars, research presentations and critiques, this course is intended to assist students to begin preparations for the portfolio review required for admission into VAS 4430 Practicum (BFA Graduating Studio Seminar course).

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with a chosen medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their work, and will utilize their reflections on their work to explore and develop further projects.

2. Communication Skills

Students will begin to be able to communicate in writing and orally assessments of their own and other artists' work across a range of media, utilizing appropriate analytic vocabulary and relate this work to relevant art and culture.

3. Autonomy and Professional Capacity

Students will be able to identify a range of research and creative problem solving strategies relevant to the production of artworks and will begin to identify a range of opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting. They will have a foundational understanding of the routes available to further advance their studies and/or professional practice and the appropriate means by which artists communicate with their peers, advance their careers etc.

**Requirements and Assignments**

**Format:** The class is held once a week for four hours. The majority of classes are structured in a seminar style where active participation in various discussions and workshops will be crucial in achieving a positive learning outcome. To successfully complete course assignments, over the term students should also attend visiting artist talks at the school and visit galleries on their own. Students should expect to spend at least four hours outside of class time to meet course requirements. In order to achieve a successful learning outcome, it is the student's responsibility to read or prepare all the required readings and research before the seminars and workshops. Two formal critiques will occur in which the student studio projects will be discussed and evaluated.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to punctually attend all classes for their full duration and complete all assignments. University policy states that an instructor can potentially refuse to grade the work of students who miss more than 15% of classes. Late assignments will automatically lose 5% of their grade and 10% per week thereafter. Assignments will not be accepted 3 weeks past due date and not at all after the end of the course.

**Participation:** Students are expected to attentively engage with all class discussions, workshops and critiques and actively contribute to these in a productive and mature manner respectful of all participants. Students also must be regularly prepared with required materials to work, discuss assigned readings, or present projects as scheduled, as well as attend all events included on the course outline or announced periodically throughout the course.

**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. Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, 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. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf> . For a downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC under the Medical Documentation heading] see: ): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>

**Mental Health Policy:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western : [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.

### **Required Materials**

Students will be expected to provide their own materials to complete studio assignments. Course readings and support resources will be made available on OWL. Students are also required to subscribe (Print or On-line) to one Canadian art journal/ magazine from the following options: BlackFlash, Border Crossings, C Magazine, FUSE, Phillip, Public.

### **Resources**

#### **Electronic Course Resources:**

Course readings, project outlines, student grades and other resources will be made available through the VAS 2282 course Owl site (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>). Students will also use the Dropbox feature on this site to submit all electronic documents (reading reports, proposals, etc.) required by the course.

For the purposes of individual student communications and class announcements, all students registered in the course must be regularly accessible through their assigned UWO email address.

#### **Research Resources:**

Art Now! Speaker Series. NCB 113 Thursdays 7pm. (see department listings)

#### **Contemporary Artist Profiles**

Weldon Library: good, continually updated collection on contemporary artists

Visual Arts Resource Centre Vision Database: (high quality jpeg image files) and index back issues, and magazines and other prints sources on contemporary art: see Kim Neudorf (rm 241D)

Art: 21 DVD –available in our Visual Arts Resource Centre or at: <http://www.pbs.org/art21/>

Galleries in London, ON

The McIntosh Gallery [www.mcintoshgallery.ca](http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca) on campus approaching Social Science Museum London [www.londonmuseum.on.ca](http://www.londonmuseum.on.ca) 421 Ridout Street North (at Dundas)  
 The Forest City Gallery [www.forestcitygallery.com](http://www.forestcitygallery.com) 258 Richmond Street (near Horton St.)  
 Support Project Space (near FCG, Clarence St just north of Horton)  
 TAP [www.artsproject.ca](http://www.artsproject.ca) 205 Dundas St. (by Central Library)  
 Michael Gibson Gallery [www.gibsongallery.com](http://www.gibsongallery.com) 157 Carling Street (near Richmond)  
 Carl Louie Gallery 733 Elias Street: [www.carl-louie.com](http://www.carl-louie.com)  
 DNA Artspace 123 Dundas St: <http://www.dnaartspace.com/>  
 Satellite Gallery: 121 Dundas St. <https://satelliteprojectspace.com/>

Some On-line resources:

The Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art <http://www.ccca.ca/start.html?languagePref=en&>  
 UbuWeb (International): [ubuweb.com](http://ubuweb.com)  
 Tate Gallery Online (UK) <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms>  
 Museum Websites such as MoMA (<https://www.moma.org>)

Some Art listings, journals, blogs:

Akimbo (Canada) <http://www.akimbo.ca/>  
 Artforum (International) <http://www.artforum.com>  
 e-Flux (International) <http://www.e-flux.com>  
 Contemporary Art Daily (International): <http://www.contemporaryartdaily.com>  
 Hyperallergic (NYC/International): <https://hyperallergic.com>

**Course Assignments and Evaluation Breakdown**

Overall: Studio Work: 40%/ Studio Research: 40%/Attendance, Participation and Reports: 20%

By Category:

1. Personal Research Dossier – 35%
2. Personal Dossier Report, Research Record and Bibliography 5%
3. Studio Work 35% (Studio Assignment: 15%; Independent Studio Project 25%)
4. Dérive Exercise, Reports, Proposals, - 5%
5. Attendance\* – 5%
6. Participation- 10%

\*Attendance: Attendance records are kept for all students. Grades for attendance will be calculated accordingly: Perfect attendance= 5%, 1 absence= 4%, 2= 2%, 3=1%, 4 = 0%. Note 3 absences in a semester could lead to being debarred from the class.

2 Lates=1 Absence. Students missing more than half a class on a given day are considered absent.  
 (See course requirements for more detail regarding attendance policy)

**Grading Criteria**

All grades will be based on the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate*:

- 1) commitment and contribution to all class activities.
- 2) grasp of requirements and objectives of assignments and ability to communicate that understanding
- 3) level of investment, development, ambition and resolution in conceptual, technical and creative aspects in all studio work.

## **VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio**

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

The studio work shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

### 80-89 (Excellent, A)

The studio work shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

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

The studio work shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

### 70-74 (Good, B)

The studio work shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

### 60-69 (Competent, C)

The studio work demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

### 50-59 (Marginal, D)

The studio work shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

### Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The studio work demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

## **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.

### **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/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 license 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.

### **Artwork 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)