

Western University - Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Visual Arts Department

VAS 4430 Practicum – Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Classes: **Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30-12:30**

Room: **JLVAC 300 and 148**

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1. Course Description

Practicum is a studio/thesis course designed to prepare students to develop a studio practice in the context of contemporary art issues and various media processes. It will, at all times, emphasize critical analysis and energetic discussion in combination with an intensive commitment to probing specific ideas and interests through creative exploration.

As a two-course load, practicum provides time for studio development and production with a related research component. The course will encourage students to experiment with materials and methods as they develop a critical studio practice informed by theoretical investigations. The university setting and the local communities offer access to information, ideas, and facilities that students are expected to use to enrich their creative practices. Attendance at speaker events and gallery openings is recommended and should be considered an important adjunct to the weekly studio classes.

2. Learning Outcomes

- A. Autonomy and Professional Capacity
 - Students will understand the range of opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.
 - Students will understand the range of opportunities for art researchers within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.
- B. Application of Knowledge
 - Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability 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
 - Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works
- C. Communication Skills
 - Students will be able to communicate in writing and orally regarding their projects and regarding relevant art and culture, and will recognize the range of language suited to differing communication opportunities (i.e. a grant application vs. a grad school application)
 - Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing with regard to their art history research, and will be able to utilize different genres of writing for different purposes (i.e., to write an academic paper, or a magazine article)

3. Course Objectives:

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

- Present a honed and cohesive independent body of work and research.
- Demonstrate perceptual, visual and conceptual skills through art making and as a critical viewer.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional artist career trajectories and how these may relate to their own practice.
- Demonstrate an understanding of publishing.
- Create a professional artist dossier and present their work in a professional manner.
- Prepare written and visual work for publication through the creation of a catalogue.
- Install and present their work professionally in a professional gallery setting.
- Demonstrate a grasp of historical and contemporary issues relevant to the making and evaluation of contemporary practices in the visual arts.
- Demonstrate the ability to translate and present information through various presentation strategies and media and understand shifts in meaning generated through this process.

4. Course Requirements

Practicum meets twice a week for a total of 8 hours. *Students are also expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours a week outside course time on studio work and research.* Each student is responsible for knowing the assignments, procedures,

and due dates. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date; failure to do so may result in a failing grade (F). Requests for deadline extensions cannot be considered unless approved by the instructor at least 24 hours before the assignment is due and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Attendance is mandatory and missing 15% or more of class time can result in a failing grade. All students are expected to be present and available for discussions at the **beginning** of each class meeting, even in the case that there is no scheduled activity and students are engaging in their work in another area of the building. Students are also responsible for the preparation, installation, and de-installation of class exhibitions. Failure to deliver or remove your work by a required deadline could result in loss of sign-out privileges and will affect your participation grade. Additionally, failure to use studio space safely and professionally will also impact your participation grade and could result in the loss of studio privileges.

5. Evaluation

Evaluation will be based upon the demonstrated ambition and resolution brought to meeting the creative, conceptual, and formal demands of assignments and studio work, as well as in the level of participation demonstrated in all other aspects of the course. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of relevant theoretical issues introduced in class and their ability to integrate these ideas in their studio practice. Qualitative evaluation will take the form of a numerical breakdown of each assignment grade in reference to the above criteria as well as through oral feedback from the course instructors.

6. Course Evaluation

First Term (50% of final grade):

First Term Assignments	Grading Weight
Independent Studio Project: Midterm	35
Independent Studio Project: End of term	35
Annotated Bibliography	10
Artist Statement	10
Participation (Professional Conduct, Committee Work & Reports, Participation in Exhibition Planning & Development, Participation in Critiques, Working in Class)	10

Second Term (50% of final grade):

Second Term Assignments	Grading Weight
Independent Studio Project: Midterm	35
Independent Studio Project: Final	35
Dossier: Letter of Intent/exhibition proposal, updated statement, biography, images/video, list of works, CV.	10
Artist Talk	10
Participation (Professional Conduct, Committee Work & Reports, Participation in Exhibition Planning & Development, Participation in Critiques, Working in Class)	10