

**Western University**  
**Department of Visual Arts**

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

**Course: SA 2602A Studio Seminar I**

**Term: Fall 2021**

**Time: Wednesdays 8:30- 12:30 pm**

**Location: VAC 249**

**Professor: Soheila K. Esfahani**

**Email: [skolahd@uwo.ca](mailto:skolahd@uwo.ca)**

**Office Hours: Monday 1:30 – 2:20 & Wednesday 12:30-1:30 or by appointment**

**Office: VAC 215**

**TA:**

### **Calendar Description**

A studio/theory seminar required for students in the second year of the Honours Specialization in Studio Arts Program. As a forum for engagement with methods and practices of professional artists it will help students prepare a portfolio review for the completion of the requirements of the BFA module.

### **Course Description**

SA 2602 is a studio/theory seminar course required for students taking an Honours 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 Practicum (the BFA Capstone course).

### **Learning Outcomes**

#### *Knowledge of Methodologies*

Students will gain an understanding of the critical and creative potential of artmaking processes and be able to identify various ways artworks operate critically and apply this understanding to the development of self-directed projects.

#### *Application of Knowledge*

Students will use their capacities with selected artists' materials 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.

### *Communication Skills*

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

### *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.

### **Assessment**

Studio Projects	40%
Dossier	30%
Blogs	10%
Reading Reflections	10%
Presentation	5%
Attendance	5%

### **Grading scheme**

**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.

### **Marking Criteria for Each Assignment**

Grades will be determined by the student's ability to clearly demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the assignment objectives and requirements
2. Resolution of the finished work (technical, conceptual and presentation-wise)
3. Evidence of research and development, both materially and conceptually
4. Resourcefulness, ambition and originality

### **Course Requirements**

Students will complete 3 studio projects, research dossier, reading reflections, and one presentation over the course of the semester, in addition to participating in reading discussions, projects and critiques. There are readings assigned some weeks that are used as jumping off points for our class discussions and generating ideas for the hands-on art making projects. These readings are available on OWL. Students must complete all assignments by the start of class (8:30 am) on the listed dates. Late penalty is 5% per day after the due date. Re-submitting of projects is permitted, provided the original project was handed in on time. All re-submitted works must be handed in by the last class.

### **Required Materials**

Students are expected to provide their own materials to complete studio assignments. Course readings and support resources will be made available through the Course OWL website.

### **Student Responsibilities & Preparations**

This is a studio/seminar class. Students are expected to attend all classes punctually and participate in all class discussions and critiques. Students are also required to have the necessary materials for each work session. Failure to meet these expectations will be reflected in their overall participation grade.

Students are expected to work during class times, plus an additional 6 hrs/wk out of class, which includes working on their dossier. Students are responsible to make themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates, and are required to complete all assignments by date of submission or critique. With fair notice to students, the course syllabus may change to adapt to class needs. It is the students' responsibility to remain apprised of such changes.

All work presented for this course must be entirely the student's own and all sources used in visual or written assignments must be properly cited. Students are expected to show evidence of working on their projects (sketches, peer-critiques, etc.) throughout the semester. The instructor may not accept a completed project as student's own work if there were no in-progress work. All assignments must be completed specifically for this class alone and punctually submitted and/or presented by posted deadline or critique. Students may not submit a project completed for another course, unless special permission is obtained from both of the instructors involved.

### **Attendance Policy**

As this is a studio/seminar course, in which there is a considerable amount of hands-on information to learn, attendance and punctuality at all classes is absolutely mandatory. If you know that you are going to miss a class, please email me to keep me informed. You are responsible for making yourself aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (*15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester*) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments. *Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero).*

In accordance with university policy, Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures, demonstrations and due dates. With fair notice, course assignments, schedule or due dates may change. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of course changes. Failure to attend an important demonstration or lecture without due cause will result in the student researching the information for themselves.

### **Participation**

Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for this class are critical, as the teaching methods used will include class critiques, lectures and studio work. Student preparation and active participation in these sessions is a requirement of the course. In addition to affecting participation grades, students late or otherwise not prepared for scheduled critiques or discussions will forfeit the opportunity for class feedback on their work. Evaluation of participation will depend on attendance and commitment to class discussions and activities.

### **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

## Academic Consideration

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

## Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## 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.

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf)

## 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)

## Additional Course Material Request Policy

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion.

Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

## Electronic Devices

**During Exams:** Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during any tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

**During Lectures and Tutorials:** Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

## 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). 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.

### **Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change)**

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.

### **Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

### **Health and Wellness**

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender Neutral Bathrooms**

Middlesex College does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO: [http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive\\_washrooms.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf).

Please contact the Media Lab Technician, Jennifer Slauenwhite ([jslaue@uwo.ca](mailto:jslaue@uwo.ca)), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.