

**AH 3692G: Special Topics: Crafting the U.S. Through Art and Architecture
Colonial to the Present**

Updated: 18 December 2023

We/I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, 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 Description:

This course will examine the artistic developments of the United States from the colonial era to contemporary times. We will begin by examining the artistic engagements between Europeans and the Indigenous peoples of Americas, followed by an analysis of art from the Revolutionary through Antebellum periods. We will complete the course by considering the art of the modern age to contemporary times. Our objective is to document that evolution of American art as matured and diverged from its European roots, into a distinctively American (US) style. To achieve our goal, we will explore the artistic developments of the United States as the country developed from a colony to a nation state. Therefore, we will ask questions as to what influence political, religious, economic, and cultural factors had upon the American artistic creations.

Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to assist you in:

- Understanding the issues and debates pertaining to the study of art and visual culture
- Gaining familiarity with terminology, stylistic classifications, methods, and theories employed in the study of art and visual culture
- Developing the ability to communicate orally and in writing the knowledge you have acquired about art and visual culture
- Develop strong independent and collaborative research skills in real world settings through engagements with community partners

Course Delivery:

Course Delivery: Blended (*Zoom will remain an option dependent upon future outbreaks*)

This course will be Blended, meaning a portion of the course is in-person, while the other component will be asynchronous learning (2 hours and 1 hour, respectively)



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Important Western Dates:

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 8	February 17-25	April 8	April 9-10	April 11-30

Owl/Sakai:

The use of OWL/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments OWL. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website.

Textbook:

None. All materials will be accessible through OWL, Online, or Western Libraries

Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to maintain appropriate conduct and etiquette (see Student Code of Conduct) for in-person and online course engagements
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions, if any, will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

Standard Participation and Engagement for In-class and Blended Learning:

- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate online through forum posts and completing the weekly content
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors

Grade Distribution:

Participation (Diary of Tasks, Apr. 3):	15%
Online Quizzes	
Quiz One (Feb. 2):	15%
Quiz Two (Mar. 13):	10%
Research Papers	
I-Research Project (Jan. 31):	15%
Annotated Bibliography (Feb 28):	20%
Final 1000-word (approx.) Essay (Mar. 27)	25%
Total:	100%

Commentary on Grades:

Through a variety of assignments undergraduates are expected to produce around 3000-3500 written words through the entirety of the term; there will be also readings each week. Each undergrad is expected to be active in discussions.

The department has grading guidelines for the undergraduate program that is attached to this course outlined and used to mark the various assessments for each student.

Rounding of Marks Statement:

All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. *Final grades* on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75.

AI and Language Editing Policy:

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT or Language Editing Software to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Likewise, it is recognized that students may utilize translation and language editing software. Like AI, these programs can be used to assist in the developing of research programs, but should be used appropriately to ensure academic integrity. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work.

Support Service:

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

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>
5. Mental Health -- https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Health and Wellness Services:

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

Further, 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/>.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Expectations for in-person delivery:

As per Western policy and public health directives, students are expected to follow Western guidelines for masking and vaccination policies for instructional spaces. When masks are required, students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through Accessible Education at aew@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education Western (AEW):

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their academic programs (normally their Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Additional General Course & Western Policies:

1. Additional Departmental Policies can be found on the last few pages of this document, including policies concerning **Plagiarism, Student Conduct, Academic Sanctions, Additional Course Material Request, Academic Consideration, Western SMC, Attendance, Religious Accommodation, etcetera.**
2. Syllabi and other relevant course information will be posted on OWL (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>).
 - a. To access owl, use your student username and password.
 - b. Students requiring additional OWL support, please speak to me or visit: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>
3. Late Assignments: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Assignments are considered late after the closing date set on OWL. Late assignments are subject to a 10% penalty per day. For information regarding self-reported absences and extensions given due to official notification due the student's faculty advisor see Western's medical policies and course evaluation sections that are provided over the following pages.
4. Online participation is mandatory and will be assessed.

5. Emails:
 - a. Assignments will not be accepted through email.
 - b. Be sure to identify your name and contact information in the email.
 - c. I will make every effort to reply to your email within one to two business days.
 - i. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities, I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal "business hours."
 - ii. By all means, if you have not heard from me within two business days, do email me again.
 - d. Only your assigned Western email will be used for communication in this class.
 - i. If your Western email is not your primary email address, please have your Western email forwarded to your primary address, whether it is Gmail, Outlook, etc.
 - ii. For general instructions on how to set up email forwarding, see http://www.uwo.ca/its/email/account/email_forwarding.html
6. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to participate in class (both in the classroom and online) and to take complete all assignments and exams.

Citation Style:

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>.

Notes on Marks and Assignments:

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified.
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.
 - Please note: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
- Tests and quizzes can appear in multiple formats: short answer, multiple choice, etc. They can also be delivered online, in-person, or take home. Please see list of tests and quizzes for more information.
 - Please note: Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.
- Assignment Guidelines will be posted on OWL under the Assignments tab.
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10%/day.
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- An assignment or cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assignment or test will be assigned; if longer the alternative assignment or test cannot be completed within a week, the weight of the missed work will be transferred to the next equivalent assignment or test.

Assignments:

1. Participation/Diary of Tasks:
 - a. Each week you will be provided questions concerning the readings, webpages, videos, podcasts, or blogs. You are expected to contribute to the class. This means coming to class prepared each day. Absences, lack of communication, etc., will affect your participation grade. To ensure health participation for all individuals, participation is in part based on your engagement with the various opportunities found the Diary of Tasks completed sheet posted on OWL Assignments Link.

- i. To assist in your own cataloguing and completion of these assignments you will maintain a digital diary through the attached document.
 - ii. Each task completed, record the dates of completion; for OWL Forums please note date.
 - iii. A digital copy of the Diary of Tasks **MUST BE SUBMITTED** by the last day of class or you will receive half points for participation.
 - b. There are **6 forum topics** on Owl. You are expected to write **a response to 3 of these forums**. Your responses are based on questions/prompts concerning the readings, webpages, videos, podcasts, or blogs assigned. Your written responses will be posted to the weekly Forum posts on OWL. Specific instructions and outcomes will be posted under each Forum post. You are expected to write between 400-500 words for each post.
 - c. See Owl for more Details
2. Quizzes:
 - a. Each will be assigned with open and closed dates. All quizzes must be submitted by the closing date. Typically, no more than 24 hours between the open and closed date.
 - b. Unless otherwise noted, all quizzes will be multiple choice format. If short answer, responses should be into assignment textbox.
 - c. **Dates: Online Quiz 1 (Feb. 2); Online Quiz 2 (Mar. 13)**
3. Research Papers:
 - a. I-Research Projects:
 - i. Will be submitted to Turnitin.com (accessible through Owl).
 - ii. You will provide a short-written response concerning the topic you chose to research.
 - iii. A detailed outline and project prompt can be found OWL.
 - iv. **Due Date: Jan. 31**
 - b. Annotated Bibliography:
 - i. Will be submitted to Turnitin.com (accessible through Owl).
 - ii. You will analyze and critically engage with the resources you will use for your topics.
 - iii. A detailed outline and project prompt can be found OWL.
 - iv. **Due Date: Feb. 28**
 - c. Final Essays:
 - i. Will be submitted to Turnitin.com (accessible through Owl).
 - ii. You are required to complete an approximately 1000-word essay on your topic.
 - iii. A detailed outline and project prompt can be found OWL.
 - iv. **Due Date: Mar. 27**

Writing Centre: 217 UCC:

The Writing Centre is part of the Effective Writing program at western and is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. It offers instruction on all aspects of writing and is not merely for students who have difficulty with writing. The one-on-one tutoring sessions can be very helpful in improving writing and editing skills.

Technical Requirements (if have remote teaching is required):*



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer (some tablets may have the computing capacity to suffice)

*If we have to transition to a digital learning practice, you will be need:



Working microphone



Working webcam

- For technical assistance, check the OWL Help page or contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. Phone 519-661-3800.
- Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to use for OWL.

*Working from Home:

- If we must shift to an online learning environment, please remember that the pandemic has changed the way we conceive of workspaces and home spaces. If we are required to work from home, I understand that you (and that I) may be interrupted by pets, parents, partners, and/or children, etc. As a group, we will be tolerant and understanding of such interruptions. Should you need to step away from the virtual class to deal with something going on at home, please feel free to do so, leaving a comment in the chat if you are able.

***Cameras and Microphones:**

- Please feel free to have your camera on or off as you choose or as is necessary to accommodate your internet speed/bandwidth. If you are able, please do have your camera on for presentations, engaging in class discussion, and so forth. If you chose to use a static picture of yourself or an image, you are expected to choose one that appropriate for an academic/professional setting. To minimize background noise, please keep your microphone off unless you are speaking.

***Online Participation and Engagement:**

- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible if we shift to remote learning.

Course Outline:

(I reserve the right to make changes to this outline throughout the term. Should a change involve rescheduling a test or *Glasses begin January 8th*

Department of Visual Arts Policies: Undergraduate

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:

There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre (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 a list of inclusive washrooms at Western:

http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.

Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (meghan.edmiston@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.

Prerequisite Checking:

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, 7th 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.

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

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

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/>

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete

some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic consideration for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Dean's Office of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's [Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy](#). Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic consideration shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic consideration may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic consideration shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic consideration. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded

at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Documentation from Student Health Services

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the

attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Attendance:

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)

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](#).

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.**

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/heprdwweb/?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.

VISUAL ARTS Art History/Museum and Curatorial Studies Grade Descriptors

90-100 (Outstanding, A+) The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A) The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+) The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B) The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C) The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D) The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F) The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.