



Arts History

Fall 2023

**AH 4692F/VA 9555 - Special Topics in Art History/Modern Art
'If it ain't Baroque, then fix it': 17th-Century Tips for Survival in a Post-Modern Age**

Prerequisite: Registration in years 3 or 4 of a Department of Visual Arts module, or permission of the Department.

Course Description: Over the course of the twentieth century, the Baroque, a once forgotten period in Western history and culture, became more and more prominent for a variety of historical reasons; it found itself referenced in an increasing number of 20th-century art works and architecture. Its importance grew with the emergence of Post-Structuralism and its sibling, Post-Modernism, as scholars began to recognize commonalities between these contemporary theories and the Baroque. By the turn of the 21st century, the term "neo-baroque" was coined in media studies, and it has emerged alongside other more recent theoretical trends such as digimodernism, hypermodernism, etc., that are now viewed as part of the more general trend known as "metamodernism." This course proposes to examine the history of this revival of the Baroque focusing on its use and relevance to our contemporary times. In other words, what is the Neo-Baroque and why should you care.

Course Outcomes: Students will develop skills in critical reading and analysis, as well as further their ability to write clearly and concisely about the topic at hand through a series of short writing assignments and one lengthier essay assignment. The evaluation for the course also combines a variety of assignments that involve a full range of approaches to the course topic. The Neo-Baroque offers a cross-period study that focuses, in part, on methodology in the study of art history and serves to highlight the shortcomings of art historical concepts, as well as potential through their refinement, as this course proposes to do. In addition, the student is exposed to a new field of research that adds an important new dimension to current Post-Structural/Metamodernist studies. In the end, students will have an excellent introductory understanding of what the Neo-Baroque is, its relevancy to the field, and will be provided with a solid grounding in modern and contemporary art practices that embrace a Neo-Baroque approach to production.

Evaluation/Undergraduate: Marks will be based on the following:

1. 20% for a 10-minute presentation of one of the articles listed in the course readings presented during its scheduled week. You must choose which article by September 25.
2. 30% for three assignments of 500 words each providing your definition of the Neo-Baroque near the point of submission. These are to be submitted October 2, November 6, and December 4. No footnotes or bibliography are required.
3. 20% to make the case for a contemporary work (1980 and after) to be a candidate for the label "Neo-Baroque". In 500-750 words (max) propose an art work or group of related works (this can include television shows or movies) as a strong candidate for this course that hasn't been mentioned in the course. You will need to footnote and provide a bibliography for this assignment. Alternatively, you can opt to simply present your case in class and do so in 5-7 minutes; no write-up is required, but a bibliography must be supplied. This is due November 20 in either form, written or presented.
4. A major assignment of your choosing worth 30% and due December 4. It can, for example, take the form of:
 - a) the writing of standard academic essay of around 2000-2500 words (typed, double spaced, approx. 8-10 pages), or something a tad more creative such as a mock interview with an artist or group of artists.
 - b) the curation of an imaginary art show involving at least 10 works. The show must include documentation relevant to each work and an essay that explains the rationale for exhibiting these works together (this must be quite specific) -- the written documentation should add up to at least

2000 words (a bibliography must be included). A layout of how the works would be hung should be supplied as well.

c) the production of a course outline describing readings, assignments, with a rationale for all of the choices made in assembling the materials for the course.

d) the writing of a script for a documentary on the Neo-Baroque including following the basic model of a three-column document that includes audio, visual, and time, for a thirty-minute documentary.

e) surprise me.

In the end, I would need your proposal for this assignment before the end of September.

Option: You can opt out of assignment 3 and change the weight of assignment 4 to 50%.

Evaluation/Graduate: Marks will be based on the following:

1. 30% for a 30-45 minute in-class presentation of one of the seven books listed under the "grad book presentation" headings in the course readings. These begin September 25 with a short book and as there are only 7 titles available someone will have to choose the first title, so decide soon please.

2. 20% for a 500–750-word summary of a week's readings submitted before the week in question.

3. 20% to make the case for a contemporary work (1980 and after) to be a candidate for the label "Neo-Baroque". In 750-1000 words (max) propose an art work or group of related works (this can include television shows or movies) as a strong candidate for this course that hasn't been mentioned in the course. You will need to footnote and provide a bibliography for this assignment. Alternatively, you can opt to simply present your case in class and do so in 5-7 minutes; no write-up is required, but a bibliography must be supplied. This is due November 20 in either form, written or presented.

4. A major assignment of your choosing worth 30% and due December 4. It can, for example, take the form of:

a) the writing of standard academic essay of around 2500-3500 words (typed, double spaced, approx. 10-15 pages), or something a tad more creative such as a mock interview with an artist or group of artists.

b) the curation of an imaginary art show involving at least 10 works. The show must include documentation relevant to each work and an essay that explains the rationale for exhibiting these works together (this must be quite specific) -- the written documentation should add up to at least 3000 words (a bibliography must be included). A layout of how the works would be hung should be supplied as well.

c) the production of a course outline describing readings, assignments, with a rationale for all of the choices made in assembling the materials for the course.

d) the writing of a script for a documentary on the Neo-Baroque including following the basic model of a three-column document that includes audio, visual, and time, for a thirty-minute documentary.

e) surprise me.

In the end, I would need your proposal for this assignment before the end of September.

Option: You can opt out of assignment 2 and change the weight of assignment 4 to 50%.

N.B. Team proposals/projects will be considered. Also, all written assignments must conform to the Chicago Manual of Style (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html).

All assignments must be handed in digitally to the OWL site.

Penalties: any assignment submitted late will be penalized 5% per day and will not be accepted 5 days past its due date.

Course Materials: The materials for this course are available either on-line, through the Weldon Library website, or will be posted on the OWL course site.

A Few Important Resources, Rules, and Regulations/Undergraduate:

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). It includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT 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. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work. Plagiarism also 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.**

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/uwoom/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:

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.

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.

Multiple Choice Exams:

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.

Plagiarism-checking Software:

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>).

Land Acknowledgement:

<https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>

Grading Rubric:

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.

A Few Important Resources, Rules, and Regulations/Graduate:

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Health/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.

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.

Graduate 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 graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or 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.

Grading Scale:

A	80-100%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
F	00-59%