

Department of Visual Arts
Western University

Foundations of Visual Arts - Studio Art 1601

Welcome to Foundations of Visual Arts at Western. This Course Outline and Syllabus: Timeline contain pertinent information about all the components of Studio Art 1601 including art materials and a timeline of the assignments and media that will be covered. You will also find important information about learning outcomes, Western University's Grade Descriptors, and your responsibilities as a student in SA 1601. Please read this document thoroughly and refer to it throughout the year.

I am looking forward to a great year of art making!

Calendar Description

A studio course designed to introduce students to the techniques and processes of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media; the formal and material concepts, which act as the foundation of direct studio practice, will be emphasized.

Prerequisite Checking:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite 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.

The anti-requisite for this course is VAS 020, VAS 1020, VAS 1025 and SA 1605

Course Objectives

This course is an introductory studio survey where students will learn, discuss, and investigate the fundamental formal, material and aesthetic concepts of art making. Such concepts will be discussed in the mandatory weekly Lecture and will be investigated through the creation of visual exercises and artworks in weekly 3-hour Studio Labs and in Sketchbook Assignments, which will be created individually, outside of Studio Labs, on student's own time. The course focuses primarily on two-dimensional media, but three-dimensional and time-based disciplines will be explored. Students are also encouraged to take full advantage of all Visiting Artist talks presented by the department in our Art Now!

Course, as well as exhibitions at the ArtLAB and events in the Visual Arts Department, as a member of our community in Visual Arts.

Course Information

Online: To be successful in SA 1601, students must access the SA 1601 OWL site

*Students enrolled in SA 1601 may still enter the BFA program (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honors Specialization in Studio Arts) **for possible acceptance into a limited number of spaces for the following year** provided they meet the admission requirements listed in the Academic Calendar and submit a portfolio of work for approval toward the end of the second term of the course.*

Learning Outcomes

Students will acquire a fundamental knowledge of the basic formal concepts and vocabulary of form, as presented, and discussed during the SA 1601 Lecture. Such concepts create the foundation for the design of artwork in 2D, 3D and time-based media.

Students will explore and apply this fundamental knowledge, discussed in the Lecture, in the creation of exercises and assignments, in the Studio Labs. Further independent exploration of formal and visual concepts will continue in the Sketchbook Assignments.

Students will recognize familiar and challenging formal approaches to subject matter throughout the course by applying different formal and technical strategies when creating subject matter observed directly from life, subject matter created through self-imaginative exploration and subject matter appropriated from popular culture and art history.

Students may analyze their knowledge and experience in creating their studio assignments by discussing their own artwork and the artwork of others during Critique and discussion of the artwork in the Studio Labs, if time permits. The Critique orally assesses how each artwork responds to the specific assignment objectives. Various Critique strategies will be employed by the Teaching Assistant for students to become more familiar with this discipline specific method of evaluation.

SA 1601 Art Supplies and Materials

Please see our OWL site **ART MATERIALS TAB/TOOL** for **photos** of examples of all the necessary Art Supplies for SA 1601 that are listed below, as well as different options for how to find supplies and optional materials you might like to purchase.

It is your responsibility to order and/or purchase the correct materials for all the Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignments.

For example, the size of the paper you use for the Studio Lab Assignments is very important as you will be working at a larger scale than the Sketchbook Assignments. You must ensure you buy the correct size or a size that is very similar. It is your decision, however, to purchase more economical or more expensive art supplies at your discretion, as long as what you are purchasing is following the guidelines of what is expected for the assignments.

You can find art supplies online at Amazon, Staples, Michael's Craft Stores as well as Art Supply Stores such as Bijan's Art Studio in London, or Curry's Art Supplies and Aboveground Art Supplies in Canada online. You might have a local Art Supply store you wish to purchase your materials from.

As I have worked with Bijan's Art Studio every year for supplies for this course, there is some specific information below:

Art Kit at Bijan's Art Studio

- I have created a SA 1601 Art Materials Kit with the assistance of Bijan's Art Studio (*Richmond Street at Mill Street, London, Ontario 519- 439-1340*).
- This is a highly recommended kit and includes all the art supplies/materials needed to create all the Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignments in SA 1601, ***except for a Sketchbook, toothpicks and coloured media.***
- **I have only ordered 150 kits. Enrollment in SA 1601 is 216. When the kits are gone, they are gone!**
- ***When purchasing your kit, please take the time at Bijan's to insure all your materials are included. If you do not take the time to do this and notice later a supply is missing, Bijan will not give you the missing item***

PLEASE NOTE: *If you already have the art materials you need for the Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignments in the course, use the supplies you have.*

PLEASE NOTE: *It is not recommended that you buy a SA 1601 Art Kit that is used. It will not have enough materials for you to successfully complete the course. It is better to buy new materials.*

Drawing Materials

- 18 x 24-inch Drawing Pad, white paper, 20 – 30 sheets
OR 18 x 24" Newsprint Pad, 30-40 sheets
 - OPTIONAL – Drawing Board, 23 x 26 inches
- Watercolour Block, hot or cold pressed, 20 sheets, 9 x 12-inches
- 6 Graphite Pencils numbered from B through to 6B or 8B
- #6 Blending Stomp
- White vinyl eraser
- Kneadable eraser
 - OPTIONAL - Any other erasers of your choice, such as a small, tipped eraser "pen"
- Pencil Sharpener
- Conte, 4 pack (black, white, 2 browns) drawing pastels
- Charcoal, 6 pack (soft, medium, hard)
- Mechanical pencil 0.5mm or 0.7mm leads/graphite
- Set of 3 Micron Permanent ink drawing pens, sizes 0.1, 0.3, 0.5
- India Ink, 60 ml bottle
- #8 Sumi brush/ bamboo handle calligraphy brush
- White Uniball Gel Highlighter pen

Painting Materials:

- 60ml tubes of good quality artist level acrylic paints in the following hues: Primary Cyan, Primary Magenta, Primary Yellow, Ultramarine Blue, Cadmium Red Medium, Cadmium Yellow light, Burnt Umber (optional), Black.
- 120ml tube or tub of Titanium White
- Acrylic/Oil Detail brush, round ferrule, size # 0, synthetic or natural bristles
- Acrylic/Oil Filbert brush, flat ferrule, size #2, synthetic or natural bristles
- Acrylic/Oil University bright, flat ferrule, size #6 synthetic or natural bristles
- Additional Acrylic/Oil brushes of your choice (optional)
- Plastic palette knife set
- Paint palette
- 1" Gesso Brush
- 60ml Gesso

Printmaking Materials:

- Speedball mounted linoleum 4 x 6 inches
- Speedball Linoleum Cutter with 5 blades

Other Necessary Supplies included in Art Kit

- Hot glue gun with hot glue sticks

- Scissors
- 18-inch cork-backed metal ruler

Additional Supplies not in Art Kit

- Sketchbook of your choice, minimum 8.5 x 11 inches, spiral or book bound
- 1- 2 Containers of Toothpicks
- Glue stick
- The camera in your cellphone, or a digital camera, to photograph your Sketchbook Assignments and to create the GIF and Audio Artwork Assignments
- Archival Printmaking Paper (optional).
- Materials to transform the Toothpick Sculpture mask. It is suggested you work creatively with materials you find.

Optional Supplies not in Art Kit

- Coloured media such as colour pencil crayons, coloured markers or watercolour paints

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION

All assignments in SA 1601 are worth less than 10% of the final grade and need academic consideration if missed.

Outstanding assignments, that have been granted academic consideration, not received on the Final Day of University Classes for the Academic Year, as listed in the Academic Calendar, will be given a mark of 0 (zero).

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.

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 with the University and the community at large. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

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.

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).

PLAGARISM:

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.

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES:

- Scholastic offences, including plagiarism, are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense at the following:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Every Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignment must be created specifically for the assignment, following the objectives. Previously created artwork cannot be submitted to SA 1601 for assessment and such a submission could be considered a Scholastic Offense and/or Plagiarism.

- With the onset of Google Image Reverse Search, it is very easy to search any Assignment online as to whether you have created the assignment yourself.
- There are instances in SA 1601 when you might need to ask for a “studio assistant” to help with a technical issue, such as taking photos while you are posing in the shot for your Animated GIF. However, it is expected that all other Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignments are created individually by the student-artist without any further assistance. If such assistance is given, without consultation with the professor, **THESE ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO (0)** and could be considered a Scholastic Offense. If you have any questions about this, please ask the professor.
- If you have any questions regarding any assignment, please consult with the professor. She is always happy to clarify any questions, concerns and to offer advice before an assignment is due.
- **Purchasing Artwork to submit for Studio Lab and Sketchbook Assignments or seeking assistance from outside sources or other individuals to create your Assignments will result in a grade of zero (0) and could be considered a possible Scholastic Offense.**
- Similar Sketchbook Submissions, for any of the Sketchbook Assignments, which are created by two or more students in the course collaborating rather than working individually, will be assigned a grade of zero (0).

FACULTY CHAT GBT and AI POLICY:

In this course, students are only permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students 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.** By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

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/>

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:

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/accessibile washroom for the academic year.

Evaluation

- Assignments will be assessed and given a number grade, or point grade, based on specific grading rubrics pertaining to individual assignments objectives. Assignments will only be assessed using the grading rubrics and if an assignment is submitted that did not follow the assignment objectives and grading rubric, it will be given a grade of 0 (zero).
- All Grading Rubrics for Assignments will be discussed during Lecture and posted to OWL on weekly content links.
- Sketchbook Assignment Grading Rubrics will be posted to OWL on the Assignment Tool.
- All grades will be posted to OWL under the Gradebook Tool and/or Assignments Tool.
- Student's final course grades will be determined by combining the first and second term grades.
- The Gradebook will be hidden the following day of the last day of University scheduled classes in April in order for final marks to be submitted to the Registrar. Students will receive their final grade for SA 1601 from the Registrar and the Gradebook will be available for view the first week of May.

Grades for Artwork will reflect the student's ability to clearly *demonstrate*

- Student's success in accordance with general course objectives (as above) and specific assignment objectives.
- Completion and quality of assignments
- Understanding of assignment concepts
- Degree of inventiveness and ambition of assignments
- Participation and commitment to process and time invested

Visual Arts follows Western University's Grade Descriptors as follows:

A+ /90-100%	Outstanding work; one could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A / 80 – 89%	Superior work that is clearly above average
B / 70 – 79%	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C / 60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting requirements
D / 50 – 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F /below 50%	Unsatisfactory work which shows insufficient effort or comprehension

Visual Arts Studio Grade Descriptors:

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.

Final Grade will be comprised as follows:

Studio Lab Assignments	70%
Drawing assignments = 23% of final grade Printmaking assignment = 6% of final grade Sculpture assignment = 6% of final grade Audio assignment = 4% of final grade Animated GIF assignment = 6% of final grade Painting assignments = 25% of final grade	
Sketchbook Assignments on OWL	24%
6 assignments – 3 at 3%, 2 at 5% of final grade	
Lecture Attendance	6%