

Western University
Department of Visual Arts

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population.

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Seminar in Film and the Moving Image:
Paracinema
2019

Room VAC 247
Wednesdays 2:30am – 5:30pm

Professor: Christine Sprengler
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm or by appointment
Office: VAC218
Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Course Description

“Paracinema” refers to works that attempt to generate the effects of cinema without using the traditional materials or physical support of film. Art historically, the term has been used to describe sculpture, installation, and video works from the 1960s and 1970s (including, for example, Anthony McCall’s “Line Describing A Cone” [1973]) that encourage analysis of “cinema” as an idea or concept by recreating its aesthetic, spectatorial and technological dimensions through a variety of creative strategies. This course will begin with a brief survey of paracinema’s early twentieth-century precedents, followed by a more in-depth exploration of its post-1960s manifestations. It will also consider the extent to which the term facilitates productive engagements with a variety of practices since the “cinematic turn” in contemporary art.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks that pertain to the practices being studied and will be able to engage with works of art and film according to those frameworks. Specifically, this course will familiarize students with the works and debates central to investigations into the relationship between art and the cinema

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates within the disciplines of art and film, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field through the deployment of these vocabularies in writing.

3. Application of Knowledge

Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular practice or historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works. Moreover, students will learn to evaluate written texts, analyze a diverse array of visual imagery, and think critically about the relationship between art objects, films, and their contexts.

Evaluation

Short Writing Assignment: 5%

Reading Presentation: 15%

Research Project Proposal: 10%

Seminar Presentation: 20%

Research Paper: 30%

Participation: 20%

Short Writing Assignment 5%

Due: September 18, 2019

Each student will write a 1-2 page response to Jonathan Walley's "The Material of Film and the Idea of Cinema: Contrasting Practices in Sixties and Seventies Avant-Garde Film." This response must contain a summary of the main argument, engage with one or two key ideas raised and/or discussed by the author, and pose 2 questions capable of generating class discussion.

Reading Presentation 15 %

Due: Various

Each student is expected to present one reading. The student will summarize the main argument of the article and its key points and prepare a list of approximately 3-4 questions capable of generating class discussion. Questions should allow for an exploration of issues raised (though not necessarily thoroughly assessed) by the reading. A one-page outline of the presentation, including the list of discussion questions, must be submitted electronically to me the day BEFORE your presentation so that I can post it on our course website. Marks will be based on the analysis of the reading, presentation style, clarity and concision of the handout, the quality of questions formulated, and the moderation of class discussion. Each presenter should speak for approximately 15 minutes.

Research Project Proposal/Conference Proposal 10 %

Due: October 30, 2019

All research projects must be approved well in advance of the presentation date. To do so, you are required to submit a presentation proposal that includes a 250-300-word description of your project that approximates a conference proposal, a list of works you plan to discuss, and a bibliography of 10 carefully selected sources. This proposal must be handed in two weeks before your seminar presentation date.

Seminar Presentation/Conference Paper 20%

Due: Various (final weeks of the course)

Each student is expected to deliver one seminar presentation that follows the basic structure and principles of the average conference paper. Presentations must be approximately 10 minutes (Undergraduate) or 15 minutes (Graduate) in length. Your mark will be based on both the content and delivery of your presentation and the effectiveness with which you lead the discussion period.

Research Paper 30 %

Sessional Dates Fall 2019

* Note: Any of the following deadlines that occur on a Saturday or Sunday or Statutory holiday will be extended to the next working day.

2019

September 2	Labour Day. Western University Closed
Wednesday, September 4	Fall/Winter Term classes begin.
September 13	Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies.
October 14	Thanksgiving Holiday. Western University Closed.
November 04-10	Fall Reading Week.
November 12 *	Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2018-19 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty.
November 30 *	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course [on campus day and evening and Distance Studies] without academic penalty.
Thursday, December 5	Fall/Winter Term classes end.
December 06-07	Study Days.
December 9-20	Mid-year / Fall term examination period.

Course Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

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For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): student.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading.

Training: <https://owl.uot>

stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and

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Mental Health:

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Building Access (September 1st to April 30th):

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

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: www.lib.uwo.ca.

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions o (m)-24.4 (8h5o (A)-at) (a)-7Q.1 (i)3. b5 (o