



Writing for the Arts

VA 9586B / 9686B Winter 2023
Tuesdays 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- engage in writing as a process by drafting and revising your pieces of writing

- discuss and analyze selected articles

- communicate ideas in orally and in writing at a professional level in a variety of forms and to different audiences

- conduct research using scholarly and reputable news sources. Use these sources effectively to develop and express personal values on issues in the visual arts

The workshops are a key aspect of the course. They start from the premise that every piece of writing is in process, and throughout the course we approach writing as a process. As such, workshops offer the opportunity to discuss unfinished work and to see the possibilities for each piece of writing. Guidelines for workshops will be discussed in class.

Opinion piece – 25%

The term op-ed

pieces by individuals were published opposite editorials written by newspaper staff. Now, many media outlets publish op-eds online and even produce newsletters of opinion and analysis from a variety of authors, often providing a platform for diverse opinions. Examples include *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, and *The Conversation*. Opinion writing is based on research and conveys a specific viewpoint. Your opinion piece should be approximately 1000 words. There are two stages to this assignment: a draft for the workshop, and the final submission.

Presentation – 10%

Select a catalogue essay that offers a model for the essay you plan to write. Scan and submit the essay to me by the required date. You will be responsible for presenting an overview and moderating the class discussion on the essay. In addition, your presentation should outline plans for your own catalogue essay.

Catalogue essay – 40%

This assignment is a 2000-word essay suitable for an exhibition catalogue. It should focus on a body of work by one artist, but it does not have to relate to an actual exhibition. There are two stages to this assignment: a draft for the workshop, and the final submission.

POLICIES ON LATE OR MISSED ASSESSMENTS

completed specifically for this course. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly. Plagiarism includes:

Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement

Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement

Submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy,

sold/shared

- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to uphold academic integrity standards

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material is copyrighted and using this material for any purposes other than your own education contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings. Do not post course material on any websites or platforms.

RESOURCES

Office Hours / Email

Office hours will be held on Zoom. Please see me during my office hours if you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, including readings or assignments. If you cannot make it during office hours, arrange an appointment or contact me by email. I will make every effort to reply to email within one to two business days. As I have other professional and personal responsibilities I typically respond to email Monday through Friday during normal business

literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

**University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts
GRADUATE GRADING STANDARDS**

90 – 100 Work of **excellent** quality

(PhD / MA) Approaching if not already at professional standards.

Thoroughly and creatively engaged at high level of research, possibly with primary sources; very high standards in writing and evidence of sophistication in all aspects of the work

(PhD studio / MFA) Approaching if not already at professional standards.

Thoroughly and creatively engaged at a high level of artistic and/or written production; very high standards and sophistication evidenced in all areas of production

86 – 89 Work of **very good** quality

(PhD / MA) Demonstrably better than expected with respect to research effort, mastery of critical and