

The University of Western Ontario: Dept of Visual Arts

VAH 3387G 001: Modernism and Interior Design

Weekly meetings: Tuesdays 11:30±2:30 p.m. in VAC100

*Professor: Bridget Elliott*

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*Office hour: Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 or by appointment*

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*Office hours: by appointment*

### Course Objectives

This course examines the work of certain artists of the 20th century. The course will focus on the work of the following artists: Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, Kazimir Malevich, and El Lissitzky. The course will also examine the work of the Bauhaus school of design and the influence of modernism on interior design.

<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

*\*Note that some of the pdf readings are required and others are optional. Optional readings posted on the course website are simply provided as further information. In other words, as far as assignments, tests and exams are concerned, you are not responsible for the material covered in the optional readings. Of course those who pursue the optional readings are welcome to use the information they contain at any point in the course.*

### Course Requirements

10%	Participation (attendance and contribution to discussions)
15%	Assignment 1: due February 2, 2016
20%	Midterm Test (short answer): March 1, 2016(

‡ Assignment 2 (due March 22, 2016)

A longer assignment with a critical written component of 1500-2000 words and an optional creative component. Details will be discussed in class and posted on the course OWL site by February 9, 2016.

Further Guidelines for Both Written Assignments

\*Length and format for submission: Please note that both written assignments should be typed and not exceed the required length. The format for submission will be specified in the assignment instructions. Please place the word count of your essay underneath your name on the title page. We will not read untyped or additional pages.

\*Late penalties: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. The papers must be



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**Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History**

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

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 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.