

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts  
**Drawing Explorations VAS 2104a**

**Calendar Description:**

An introductory course exploring a wide range of traditional and contemporary aspects of drawing in order to develop an understanding of its applications to the Visual Arts as well as other frameworks.

**Course Description:**

Throughout this term students progress through a series of projects that build skill along with an exposure to the diversity of contemporary drawing practices. Working from observation, figuration, abstraction and digital processes, students will investigate materiality, design, historical context and concept. Along with building drawing skills, students discover the conventions of drawing to consider their cultural meanings and push at established boundaries. Studio exercises, assignments as well as independent and group projects will be directed to develop a working knowledge of the basic materials, processes and visual language. As the course develops emphasis on formal and perceptual means will increasingly be brought to bear on resolving conceptual problems. Lectures, readings, discussions, and critiques will serve to familiarize students with broad range of theoretical and critical tools fundamental to current drawing practices. All students will be expected to engage in rigorous experimentation in responding to class projects and personally develop the means to apply acquired resources on an independent basis.

**Course Information:**

**Time:** Tuesdays, 6pm-10pm  
**Studio:** Room 230  
**Instructor:** Neil Klassen  
Office: Rm 222  
nklasse2@uwo.ca  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 5-6 or by appointment

**Learning Objectives:**

Students are expected to punctually attend *all* class sessions and come prepared to participate in all class activities and critiques. This is a Studio course, and great emphasis is placed upon in-class work, feedback and discussion. Under university regulations, students who miss more than 15% of the course hours (4 classes per semester) without prior consultation or documentation (medical or bereavement vetted through student's faculty academic advisor) can be debarred from final studio critiques and examinations. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cut-off and be disbarred.

Unless specifically given as an entirely homework project, all assignments must be worked on in class. Assignments not seen in progress by the instructor will not be accepted for grading, resulting in a loss of a project's percentage in the year end mark.

Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates. It is the student's complete responsibility to keep informed of any such changes.

Students are expected to complete all assignments on due dates for critique. Failure to complete assignments or present completed work in scheduled critiques without prior consultation with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students can hand in late work with 2% per day deducted from the assignment (Monday to Friday, weekend considered one day). No late work will be accepted 3 weeks, or later, after the assigned due date (grade = 0). Work handed in on the due date can always be reworked after it has been graded to be reconsidered for a grade. Resubmission will not be accepted on work that was handed in after the due date. No work will accepted after December 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than

Attendance, preparation and participation,	20%
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Students must complete all assignments by the due dates stated in the syllabus unless a previous agreement has been made with the instructors. The Syllabus may be subject to change in order to adapt to class needs. All changes will be announced in class with fair advanced warning.

**Studio assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:**

Understanding of project concepts and ability to express that understanding  
 Ambition, resourcefulness, creativity, risk taking  
 Technical development  
 Completion and quality of assignments  
 Development and maturity of ideas  
 Attendance and participation in class activities

**Based on the success in meeting the above criteria, grades will be assessed as follows:**

A+ /90-100%	Outstanding work
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

**Course Schedule:**

An overview of the topics covered and re1i

Week 9	Tues, Nov. 10	<b>Critique: Project 3 Figures</b>
Week 10	Tues, Nov. 17	Class Workshop
Week 11	Tues, Nov. 24	<b>Critique: Project 4 Spaces</b>
Week 12	Tues, Nov. 24	Class Workshop
Week 13	Tues, Dec. 1	Work Period- self-directed
Week 14	Tues, Dec. 8	Final Critique: Project 5 <b>Self-Directed</b>

**Studio Assignments:**

This is a general overview of the studio assignments for this course. Assignment directives will be detailed in class with key concepts and objectives explained and illustrated through examples.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Worth</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Project 1: Places	<b>10%</b>	Sept 29
Project 2: Objects	<b>10%</b>	Oct 13
Project 3: Figures	<b>10%</b>	Nov 10
Project 4: Spaces	<b>10%</b>	Nov 24
Project 5: Self-Directed	<b>20%</b>	Dec 8
Project 6: Sketchbook (ongoing)	<b>20%</b>	Dec 8

**Assignments/Late Assignments:**

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with a 2% per day deduction from the assignment. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

**Readings:**

Readings that relate to the projects of this course will be made available on OWL (webct.uwo.ca) Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss these articles on the following class.

**Critiques:**

There will be a critique for each of the main projects. A significant part of each student's mark

will be decided by the effectiveness of the approach they employ to present their work at their critique. The critique's are intended for you to respond to your peers work and to your own. It is not a platform for the instructor to speak solely, everyone is to be involved. Learning to critique your work and the work of others is an important skill for any student/student artist to develop.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL CRITIQUES IS MANDATORY.

### **]Correspondence**

I will check my email account every weekday morning and will respond to all emails I receive. If you have an issue that requires immediate attention, please contact;

Marlene Jones, Undergraduate Assistant: [mjones5@uwo.ca](mailto:mjones5@uwo.ca) (519) 661-3440 x83440 Room: VAC 200

OWL / Sakai Documentation

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

### **Materials:**

Specific materials needed for each in-class assignment will be discussed well in advance so students have enough time to purchase what is required. Specific materials needed will vary from student to student based upon specific responses to class assignments. Please refer to the list below for a basic assortment of painting and drawing tools that should be brought to class as needed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students will use only non-toxic materials in the studio; no solvents or solvent-based materials are permitted. ALL aerosol sprays must be used only in department spray booths and only after students have received proper training in its use by the instructor or department technical manager.

### **Required materials:**

2 Sketchbooks (9" x 12" is preferred)

Drawing pads: 18 x 24 newsprint &

18 x 24 bond or cartridge paper

Few sheet of mid-range quality paper like

Mayfair

drawing board

bulldog clips

pencils: H,HB,2B,4B,6B,8B

pencil sharpener (small xacto knife)

kneadable and hard eraser  
charcoal: compressed, vine and pencil  
conté : black and white  
Set of 3 Micron permanent drawing pens  
large ruler (30 inches or more)  
spray fixative (share)  
one card board or portfolio case (improvised is fine)  
Black drawing ink, bamboo brush and nib pens  
Art supply box (tool box) (this is optional)  
Sandpaper (100-220 grit)  
Painters masking tape (the green stuff)

**Dollar/Department Store Materials**

White vinyl eraser  
Pencil sharpener  
Masking tape  
Scissors  
Glue stick  
One metal utility knife

**This information appears on Page 3, under Support Services at the link: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>**

**Mental Health:**

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

**VISUAL ARTS Undergraduate Grading Guidelines – Studio**

These guidelines are benchmarks, 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 at the first year level are generally lower than at fourth year.

**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)**





**Prerequisites:**

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:**