



## Visual Arts Department

### SA 3674A — Alternative Approaches to Creative Methods (Fall 2023)

#### Calendar Description

A studio course that encourages students to delve deeply into the conceptual potential of materials and methods in contemporary art-making. Complimentary to discipline specific courses, this course is designed to advance students' methodological approaches and hone their sense of voice and positionality as artists. Self-reflective engagement is emphasized.

#### Expanded Description

Focused on creative experimentation outside of what is familiar and comfortable, or even always likely to be successful, this studio course is designed to develop students' technical versatility, problem solving, and conceptual rigour. Through projects, lectures, assigned research, written responses, and in class discussions, students will examine the social, emotional, and conceptual potentials inherent to art-making processes.

As this course emphasizes in-class discussions as a form of material and methodological research, there is a focus on fostering peer to peer community. Students will benefit most from this course through generously responding to their own work and others', and developing their projects alongside their peers.

#### Learning Outcomes / Objectives

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

- Understand and contextualize conceptual qualities inherent to artists' material choices (eg. social, ecological, and other connotations)
- Understand, question, and address the emotive and other social qualities of aesthetics that might be considered 'outsider,' 'low-brow,' 'campy' and otherwise outside of Eurocentric artistic canon
- Speculate on temporal creative possibilities by proposing a long-term project (ongoing, responsive, or repetitive in a way that requires a timeline greater than an academic term)
- Develop a self-directed final project utilizing methods covered in one or more of the preceding projects
- Understand and reflect upon research materials during in-class discussions and through written responses
- Address and constructively discuss their own and peers' work, contributing to a cooperative in-class community
- Address personal work in both oral and written formats

#### Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

- |                               |               |      |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|
| • Project 1                   | 18 %          |      |
| • Project 2                   | 18 %          |      |
| • Project 3                   | 18 %          |      |
| • Project 4                   | 18 %          |      |
| • Reading Responses           | + Discussions | 18 % |
| • Participation and Community |               | 10 % |

Projects are graded on the

### Student Responsibilities

Students will be expected to be aware of all assignments, procedures, and due dates. This includes taking notes during lectures, referencing course documents and OWL site, or requesting information in alternative formats where needed. Please ask for clarification if you need it.

### Late Assignment Policy

Assignments are expected to be completed by the start of class on the day they are due.

If work is incomplete at time of discussion/critique, in-progress work should still be brought to class and presented for discussion. Our discussions are an integral part of the learning you will do in this course and are opportunities for feedback and collaborative growth that should be taken advantage of.

Incomplete assignments will be accepted with 10% of the project grade subtracted for each week in which

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

#### Technical Requirements

Students should have technology such as a computer and smart phone or digital camera sufficient to access OWL site for class and to document and submit images of art work.



respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University

[Privacy Policy](#) Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic considerations 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 Incomplete, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic considerations 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 considerations 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.cmu.ca/academic\\_policies/academic\\_pthe](http://www.cmu.ca/academic_policies/academic_pthe)





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:

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the

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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](mailto:support@uwo.ca)

#### 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 -

minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.