

Western University  
Department of Visual Arts

SA3692B  
Oil Painting: From Material to Concept

Term/Session      Winter 2024

### Course Description

This course will explore traditional and experimental oil painting techniques and develop crucial conceptual ideas pertinent to contemporary painting. Students will explore the role of painting as a research tool and as a system of thinking. Whilst helping students to develop painting techniques and their observational skills, this course will encourage students to speculate further on the nature of a painting practice and the role painting plays in contemporary culture. Dogmatic devices and restrictive challenges at the beginning of term will give way to unrestricted self-directed study by the end of the course where students will be asked to think their way conceptually through paint. Through praxis and critique students will question their role in the painting process and the importance of an artist's cultural and ecological situation.

Text's which directly refer to painting as a material visual concern will be set alongside the practical program. Other course materials will be delivered through group seminars, presentations and group critiques. Students will also be encouraged to contribute to the content of the class through the visual analysis of paintings which they themselves will draw from the canon of art history.

Please note that this is a solvent free oil painting class and turpentine will not be allowed in the studio. Please see the materials list for appropriate replacements and substitutions.

### Learning Outcomes:

- x Students will expand on their foundational knowledge of oil paint techniques and materials. They will continue to develop their direct observational skills and their knowledge of aspects of the history of Art.
- x Students will develop a fundamental knowledge of key philosophical concepts within the field of aesthetics.
- x Students will learn how to expand and disrupt their received painting knowledge through self-directed study in light of their assessment of key philosophical concerns.
- x Students will recognize the importance of balancing painting technique, experimental practice, key philosophical ideas and the role ecology plays in a contemporary painting practice.

## Materials List

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If any student wishes to bring their own materials into the classroom that is very much encouraged. Materials like ideas should be experimented with and manipulated freely.

All of the items below are available at Bijan's Art Studio on Mill Street, downtown.

Oil Paint: Water Mixable Windsor and Newton - \$11.99 each

- x Titanium white
- x Lemon Yellow
- x Cadmium Yellow Medium
- x

Attendance/Participation                      20%

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

Important Information Regarding Assignments:

- Late penalty is 2% per day, including weekends.
- Extensions will be granted only with medical certification or under other extenuating circumstances.
- Written assignments must be submitted by email as a Microsoft Word file.
- All written assignments should be double-spaced, and in a 12-point font. The first page should include the following information: your name, essay title, and the date.
- All written assignments should follow the Chicago or MLA style guides. They should use footnotes (not endnotes) and contain a bibliography.

Prerequisite Checking:

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf)

Academic Sanctions:

ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic consideration for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Dean's Office of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic consideration 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 Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic consideration 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 consideration 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.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

#### Documentation from Student Health Services:

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

#### Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments:

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

#### Attendance:

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments.

Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero)

#### Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

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

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.

### AI Policy

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise

not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

#### Artwork Installation Liability Release:

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk 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: Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login> Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/> Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

#### Health and Wellness:

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further



information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### Gender Neutral Bathrooms:

There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre (JLVAC). One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is a list of inclusive washrooms at Western:

[http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive\\_washrooms.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf). Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston ([meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca](mailto:meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca)), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

Land Acknowledgement <https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>