

Western University
Department of Visual Arts
Winter 2016

VAH1041B

Art, Visual Culture, and Power

Professor: C. Sprengler

Office: VAC 218

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am or by appointment

Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Lectures: Thursdays 2:30-4:20 in MC110

Tutorials: Thursdays 4:30-5:20 (check timetable for room #)

Teaching Assistants/Office Hours

Taylor Davison	tdaviso2@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm, Rm 242
Ellen Groh	egroh@uwo.ca	Tuesdays 12:30-1:30, Rm 242
Keely McCavitt	kmccavit@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 2:00-3:00, Rm 242
Katie Oates	koates2@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 12:30-1:30, Rm 242
Carling Spinney	cspinney@uwo.ca	Tuesdays 1:00-2:00pm, Rm 242

Course Description

This course introduces students to the complex relationships between art and power and the ways in which both have been defined, engaged and mobilized from ancient times to the present. We will take a chronological approach that emphasizes the social contexts of the artistic practices surveyed and considers how certain intellectual contexts gave rise to specific conceptions of power. As such, we will also pay close attention to the philosophical, religious, political and scientific forces that led to significant cultural shifts and shaped the character of artistic periods.

Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to help students develop the following:

- knowledge about artistic and visual cultural production within a series of diverse historical contexts
- understanding of the issues and debates pertaining to the study of art and visual culture
- familiarity with the terminology, stylistic classifications and methodologies employed in the study of art and visual culture
- the ability to communicate orally and in written form the knowledge acquired about art and visual culture in relation to questions of power

Required Texts

Richard Lewis and Susan I. Lewis, *The Power of Art*, 3rd Edition. Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2014.

Evaluation

In-class Test: 25%

Date: Thursday February 11, 2016

Tutorial Project: 25%

Due: Thursday March 10, 2016

Tutorial Attendance and Participation: 10%

Breakdown: 5% for attendance; 5% for participation

Final Exam: 40%

Date: Scheduled during the April examination period.

Tutorials

This course consists of two lecture hours and one hour of tutorial per week. Attendance at tutorials is mandatory and attendance and participation will be graded. Teaching Assistants (TAs) have some flexibility in the structure of their tutorials and are responsible for issuing and grading all assignments and administering any review quizzes, group exercises or other learning initiatives that they see fit. Please keep in mind that 35% of your final course grade is designated for the tutorials. TAs will provide you with a tutorial syllabus.

General Course Policies

1. Tests and examinations start at the beginning of class. Time lost due to late arrival will not be made up.
2. Late Assignments: Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Assignments are considered late after the start of class the day they are due. Extensions will be given *only* upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor documenting bereavement or serious health issues. All other late essays are subject to a 10% penalty per day.
3. Syllabi and other relevant course information will be posted on Owl.
4. Attendance is required. Tutorial attendance will be monitored and marked.
5. Plagiarism will not be tolerated! For information concerning UWO's Plagiarism and Academic Offenses (Scholastic Offences) consult the Western Academic Calendar.
6. Emails:
 - a. Assignments will not be accepted through email.
 - b. Grades will not be discussed through email.
 - c. Be sure to keep emails brief and to the point and use standard formatting. Do not use short form or abbreviated expressions.
 - d. Be sure to identify your name and contact information in the email.
 - e. I will make every effort to reply to your email within two business days.
7. Electronic Devices: You may use a computer in class to take notes. All other activities (e.g. checking email or social media sites, etc.) are prohibited. Students must turn off all cell phones, PDAs, or similar electronic devices while in the

**The University of Western Ontario
Visual Arts Department**

POLICIES

Student Conduct:

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.

Attendance:

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (University Policy)

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

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:

Plagiarism, which may be defined as "The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own," will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). (Refer to <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg113.html> or the 2013/2014 Western Academic Calendar, p. 19-21, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.)

Medical Policy:

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

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 of 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.