

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts  
**Drawing Explorations VAS 2104b**  
**Winter 2016**

**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

## **Course Requirements**

" 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.

---

" Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, SURFHGXUHV DQG GXH GDWHV ,W LV WKH VWXGHQW¶V FRPSO 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



**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  
conte : 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  
One razor blade  
Random collage materials

**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 to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

**Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western**  
**<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.**

**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)**

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.

**70-74 (Good, B)**

The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques.

Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

**60-69 (Competent, C)**

The **studio work** demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

**50-59 (Marginal, D)**

The **studio work** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

**Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)**

The **studio work** demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

**The University of Western Ontario**

that should you en