

Art History 2676F  
Fall 2023

Introduction to Design

Teaching Assistants:

Prerequisite 1.0 from Art History 1640 or two of Art History 1641A/B, 1648A/B, or the former VAH 1040 or two of the former VAH 1041A/B, 1045A/B, or 1.0 essay course from Arts and Humanities, FIMS, or Social Science, or permission of the Department.

**Course Description** This course introduces students to the theory, history and practice of modern design from the end of the 19th century to the present day, as well as touching on its sociocultural impact. Using a wide range of historical and contemporary examples the course provides with the basic principles of design, laying the foundation toward an understanding of what design involves in all of its myriad aspects, and how it affects our everyday lives.

**Learning Outcomes**

The point of this course, beyond the obvious acquisition of knowledge of the topic we will be addressing over the term, is to have you engage in an open and active discussion of key historical and contemporary issues from the various perspectives offered by the authors we read, the course instructor as well as the thoughts of your peers on the topics addressed in class discussions. You should be able to critically engage with the readings and the designs encountered in this course, both verbally and in writing, and both in a summary form and more expansively. In some cases, some students may be encouraged to take a more inventive approach to looking at the problems and issues presented in this course.

By the end of this course you will have acquired an introductory understanding of the history, theory, and practice of design, as well as have gained a knowledge of some of the issues and expectations of contemporary designers in various fields of design.

**Evaluation:** marks will be based on the following:

1. 15%, the Norman door project. Find and document a poorly designed object, space, concept, etc., virtual or real in the spirit of Don Norman's complaints about doors and how many of them are poorly designed. How would you propose solving it? Due October 3.
  2. 20%, mid-term test. Combination of short answers and multiple choice (one and a half hours) in class. October 24.
  3. 35%, the major project. This can take two directions. For the more traditional students in this course select an object or concept such as a radio, lamp, chair, automobile, the rules of a sport or urban plans (the growth of the city of Paris, for example), mobile devices, an app, trace its history and the changes that have occurred in its design and the reasons for the changes. Don't expect these changes to be linear as sometimes improved functionality dictated a change, at other times, taste. For the more creatively inclined students in the class also like to make things do the same but with the objective of designing a better chair, lamp, app, etc. Your look at the history and reasons for changes should be incorporated into your design decisions in proposing a better version of the object or concept you are addressing. Due the morning of November 8.
  4. 30%, final exam. Combination of image ID, short answers and multiple choice questions (two hours). Final exam period in December.
- N.B. Team proposals/projects will be considered for the major project



#### Additional Course Material Request Policy:

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can visit Western's Academic Support & Engagement department at <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

#### Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete a component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to 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 Incomplete, or 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 – 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 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 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

**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.

**GenderBased and Sexual Violence:**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gendered and sexual violence

Grading Rubric:

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions