

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES - DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS**

**VAS 2275B - ART NOW! II**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**PROFESSOR:** Matthew Ryan Smith (msmit269@uwo.ca)  
- Office Hours: Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm, VAC 240C

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Sophie Quick (squick2@uwo.ca)  
- Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00pm, VAC 242

**COURSE MEETING ROOM:** VAC 100 (auditorium) John Labatt Visual Arts Centre

**COURSE MEETING TIME:** Thursdays: 7:00pm – 10:00pm

**COURSE READINGS:** All course readings are available on WebCT and can be accessed at:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/its/webct/index.html>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** *Art Now* explores contemporary art production with special emphasis on the perspectives of practicing artists, curators, critics and theorists. As a result, it will offer students exposure to a wide range of contemporary art practices through lectures, slide and video presentations as well as presentations by visiting speakers.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The primary objectives of *Art Now* are to introduce students to the cultural forms of the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including direct engagement and dialogue with artists and cultural practitioners. Throughout the course, students should be developing an appropriate language for discussion, analysis and evaluation of contemporary art and ideas. This language will be put to use in both written and material assignments that will encourage students to respond to and analyze art works, theoretical projects and other elements presented in the course.

**CLASS FORMAT:** Classes will meet on a weekly basis throughout the semester in room VAC 100 (auditorium). Group lectures will be used for concept presentations, power point and video screenings, guest lectures and general information. Frequently, the class will break-off into small group tutorials to be led by the Professor and Teaching Assistant. Tutorial groups will be set on the first day of class and will stay this way for the remainder of the semester. Please note that your tutorial leader will alternate weekly between the Professor and Teaching Assistant.

**ATTENDANCE:** *This course is strongly oriented toward your participation.* A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cut-off and can be debarred. Please note: lectures will not be repeated to individuals or will be posted on WebCT. Since *your* contributions to class discussions make up part of your final grade, be advised that if you miss a class you should make a special effort to contribute in another class.

**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.

**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.

**COMMUNICATION:** Every student is required to check their UWO e-mail regularly. If you do not have internet access where you live, please schedule a regular check at a public terminal on campus. Important class announcements may be sent out via email; therefore, it is your responsibility to check your email regularly. During the term, your Course Instructor and Teaching Assistant will generally respond to emails within 48 hours or less.

**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. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Please approach your Course Instructor during the first week of class if you require any accommodation in course requirements or scheduling due to a disability. You are encouraged to visit the Student Development Centre for assistance with a disability. Students who want to request academic accommodation must register with the Centre, meet with a counsellor, and provide appropriate documentation. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/> for more information.

**CELL PHONES/SOCIAL NETWORK WEBSITES/INSTANT MESSAGING: Cell phones are to be turned off in the classroom and any use of social networking websites or instant messaging services are strictly prohibited.**

**PLAGIARISM & CITATION:** 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, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 1170). (Refer to the 2010/2011 Western Academic Calendar, p. 23, with regards to academic penalties for plagiarism.) Students must write their essays and assignments *in their own words*. Taking an idea or a passage of text from another author must be acknowledged in full by quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. The Department of Visual Arts uses Chicago Manual Style for all citations and references. A .PDF copy of the C.M.S. guide is listed on WebCT under the desktop webpage of this course. For more information, please contact the UWO writing centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>).

All assignments *may* be subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University of Western Ontario uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the internet, e-journals, e-books, and a range of other

scanned material, including other assignments for this course. Use of this software means I can focus on the ideas in your assignments rather than on policing. It also means I can spend my grading time providing students with useful feedback rather than on investigating the few papers that seem to present academic honesty issues. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. An added benefit is that when you submit your paper to Turnitin.com, it is time and date stamped so that it cannot go missing.

**NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Students are expected to complete all assignments *on time*. Beyond the due date, students may hand in late work to the Course Instructor, TA, or department secretary (for a date stamp) with a 5% per day deduction from the assignment. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

All written assignments will **not** be accepted via email or as an email attachment (unless in special circumstances). All assignments must be formally typed as described below.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. K. Robertson (tel. 519-661-3440; [vaugc@uwo.ca](mailto:vaugc@uwo.ca)). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counsellor for your Faculty (Mrs. B. Barratt and Mr. Ben Hakala are the counsellors for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities).

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; [www.sdc.uwo.ca](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca)) offers a wide range of useful services to students including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, amongst many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. As well, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. Check it out at: [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca).

Financial Aid Services is your main source of information for OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offer part-time positions on campus for Western students. Tel: 519-661-2100; e-mail, [finaid@uwo.ca](mailto:finaid@uwo.ca); or check out their website at [www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/index.cfm](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/index.cfm)

**BUILDING ACCESS:** The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-6:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 6:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

**COURSE EVALUATION BREAKDOWN:**

Attendance	5% (attendance will be recorded each week)
Participation	10% (in lecture and tutorial)
Guest Speaker Response	25% (1 <sup>st</sup> response: 5%, other two responses: 10%)
Exhibition Review	20%
Studio/Creative Project	40%
<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Week 1: Thursday, January 6**

Course introduction

Overview of the semester (attendance, participation, readings, speaker series, responsibilities, evaluation breakdown, expectations, tutorial structure)

Speaker response assignment guidelines distributed

Review of past semester and future assignments.

**Week 2: Thursday, January 13**

Lecture: Sculpture & the Readymade

**Guest Speaker (8:00pm): David Liss, Curator & Director, MOCCA**

Readings: Liza Bear – “Interview with Gordon Matta-Clark”  
Interview with Jeff Koons: <http://www.jca-online.com/koons.html>  
(Optional): Matthew Smith – “Some Thoughts on the Cut in Collage”

**Week 3: Thursday, January 20**

Lecture: Ethics & Contemporary Art

**Guest Speaker (8:00pm): David Hoffos, (Installation)**

Readings: Jennifer Fisher - “Trick or Treat: Naming a Curatorial Ethics”  
Sharon Sliwinski - “A painful labour: responsibility and photography”

**Week 4: Thursday, January 27**

**1<sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker Response Due (David Liss)**

Film Screening: Michael Snow – *Wavelength* (1967, 45 min.)

Guest Lecturer: Kelly O’Dette (Multimedia)

Readings: TBA  
(Optional): Elizabeth Legge – “Approaching an Image: Michael Snow”

**Week 5: Thursday, February 3**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Guest Speaker Response Due (David Hoffos)**

Lecture: Institutional Critique

Film Screening: *The Yes Men* (2003)

Readings: Andrea Fraser - "From the Critique of Institutions to an Institution of Critique"  
Sandy Nairne - "The Institutionalization of Dissent"  
(Optional): FUSE Magazine - "Interview with The Yes Men"

**Week 6: Thursday, February 10**

Lecture: New Media/New Technology/Internet Art/etc. etc. etc.

**Guest Speaker (8:00pm): Paulette Phillips, (Multidisciplinary)**

Readings: Mark Hansen, "Between Body and Image: On the 'Newness' of New Media Art"  
(Optional): Elizabeth Janus Interviews Tony Oursler

**Week 7: Thursday, February 17**

Exhibition Review Guidelines Assigned

Lecture: Shock & the Obscene

**Guest Speaker (8:00pm): Wyn Geleynse, (Multimedia)**

Readings: Carole S. Vance - "Misunderstanding Obscenity"  
Hal Foster - "Obscene, Abject, Traumatic"  
(Optional): Anthony O'Hear - "Art and Censorship"

**Week 8: Thursday, February 24**

**READING WEEK: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED**

**Week 9: Thursday, March 3**

**3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Guest Speaker Response Due (Paulette Phillips)**

Guest Lecture: Jennifer Orpana - "Community-Based Photography Projects"

Readings: TBA

**Week 10: Thursday, March 10**

Lecture: Relational Aesthetics & Collaboration

Readings: Nicolas Bourriaud – “Relational Form”  
Claire Bishop – “The Social Turn: Collaboration and its Discontents”

**Week 11: Thursday, March 17**

**Exhibition Review Assignment Due**

Guest Lecturer: Sophie Quick – “Contemporary Feminist Art”

Seminar discussion

Readings: Jayne Wark, "The Origins of Feminist Art"  
Lauren Rabinovitz, "Issues of Feminist Aesthetics: Judy Chicago & Joyce Wieland"

**Week 12: Thursday, March 24**

Lecture: Relational Viewing (Seeing the Self in Autobiographical Art)

Seminar discussion

Readings: Jill Bennett – “On the Subject of Trauma”  
Suzanna Egan – “Encounters in Camera: Autobiography as Interaction”

**Week 13: Thursday, March 31**

Film Screening: “Exit Through the Gift Shop” (2010)

**First round of student lectures on studio/creative projects**

**Week 14: Thursday, April 7**

**FINAL CLASS (No Exam)**

**Final round of student lectures on studio/creative projects**