

**SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC**  
**Winter Semester 2017**  
**AVC\*6200-01**  
**PROSEMINAR: CRITICAL METHODS II**



**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr Susan Douglas  
**TIME:** Tuesday 2:30 – 5:20 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Alexander Hall, Rm 286  
**OFFICE:** Johnston Hall, Rm 111  
**PHONE:** Ext. 53024  
**EMAIL:** sdouglas@uoguelph.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

***Monday, February 20 – Friday, February 24***  
**Winter Break -- NO CLASSES SCHEDULED**  
***Friday, April 14***  
**Holiday -- NO EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Be introduced to the aesthetic, historical, social, and ethical significance of digitization in art institutions and have the capacity to think critically about digital resources used currently in Art History and Museum Studies
2. Display an effective knowledge of the vocabulary appropriate for careers in academia, the visual arts, museums, and libraries and be able to talk with professionals as collaborators
3. Negotiate the space between theory and practice and communicate ideas and findings using visual, oral and written arguments and presentation skills

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Participants will be introduced to digital art history, an area of research that is becoming ever more important in recent scholarship
2. Participants will be able to identify a range of digital resources and tools used in cultural institutions, museums and related cultural heritage organizations

3. Participants will be able to critically determine how the digital world impacts users interacting with material collections, visual culture, digital/Internet texts and practices

4. Participants will gain appreciation for uncertainty, ambiguity, and the limits of knowledge, and an understanding of how these limits may influence analyses, interpretations, and worldviews.

**PREREQUISITE**

Prerequisite(s): AVC\*6100

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this seminar, graduate students will be introduced to digital scholarship as a way of thinking. Insights afforded by poststructuralism, postcolonialism, and deconstruction have fundamentally changed our understanding of the meaning of truth, authorship, identity, subjectivity, power relations, nature, nations, bodies, minds, intelligence as well as other ontological categories of cultural thought. The methods of digital humanities (graphic representation, data visualization, network theory) are now being applied widely in art historical practice and in the museum field. The course investigates digital materiality and its implications for art institutions. The course is not intended to provide a full hands-on knowledge of each of the topics covered, but to organize the subject matter and provide potential frameworks for future development along with exercises/activities that actively encourage use and adaptation in academic research. The classes are based on key ideas discussed to facilitate connections between critical ideas, texts and hands-on activities using case studies. Sessions contain substantive discussions and exercises in class to allow participants to become familiar with the appropriate analytical tools.

**COURSE TEXTS**

- Readings material will be made available through the Library or Courselink.

**SCHEDULE:**

The course schedule is available on Courselink.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION**

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Data visualization workshop .....	10% .....	Week 4
Paper proposal presentation.....	10% .....	Weeks 5, 9
Final paper presentation .....	20% .....	Weeks 11-12
Final written paper.....	30% .....	Week 12
Discussion (online & in all classes).....	30% .....	Weekly

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Format and Procedures**

Before the lectures, all students are expected to have read and prepared notes on the assigned readings. Participation in class is critical to individual success in this course and to the success of the course as a whole. Students should come to class prepared to

participate in small group and class discussions having completed all the required readings prior to class. Discussion questions online must be submitted by the times specified by the instructor. In addition, students are required to convey information to the class in a variety of formats including oral and written communication and to complete a variety of course projects. You are expected to participate in all aspects of class discussion including reading the online discussion. Please note that regular attendance and active participation in each class session are critical for receiving a satisfactory grade in this course. Class participation is not merely attendance but factors attentiveness and listening, criticality, judgment, as well as reading comprehension. It includes the ability to communicate and synthesize respectfully examining your colleague's questions and arguments, and analyzing accurately and reliably. You should strive for balance in your contributions, since your participation will not be based on who speaks the longest or loudest but on consistent participation of significant quantity and, more importantly, quality. A successful achievement of the educational goals of this class rests with each individual student. The instructor's role is to assist in the process by which students realize their maximum potential and to 'coach' throughout the learning process.

## **2. Course Requirements**

### **Data visualization workshop**

Students will review a specific data visualization tool and complete the assignment by demonstrating the ability to design and lead a discussion of that type on that type of visualization tool.

### **Paper proposal presentation**

Students will decide on a topic area and work on gathering materials (references, texts, images) and produce a preliminary bibliography by week 4, set up a meeting with the instructor by appointment to take place during week 5; on week 9 they will meet again by appointment to assess the final paper outline.

### **Final Paper Presentation**

Students will present their final project during the final weeks of class – the schedule will be determined after the 40<sup>th</sup> day of classes. Students must submit their presentations to the instructor on a USB on the day before the presentation is scheduled to take place. A printed handout should accompany the presentation listing the main points of the argument.

### **Final Written Paper**

The final paper (suggested length approx. 4,000 – 5,000 words) will be discussed in class.

### **Discussion (online and in class)**

*In class discussion and participation (20%)*

Because most of the learning in this class will occur in the classroom, you are required to attend class on a regular basis and in a timely manner. Absences will only be excused in accordance with university policy, and proper documentation including timely notification before class (prior to class for non-emergencies).

Please note that active participation in each class session is critical to receiving a satisfactory grade in the course.

*Online discussions (10%)*

Students will demonstrate a familiarity with the course material including understanding of the readings required for each week by posing or responding to questions that provoke thoughtful class discussions. Each week, students are expected to have read the course material carefully and to post their own reflections / discussion / responses by noon on the day before the class meets. Students may post more than once. Student contributions online should demonstrate understanding (even if understanding is nascent or tentative) and questions and posts should stimulate engaged debate. The goal of the discussions is for students to practice presentation skills, learn to ask appropriate questions, respond to questions, disagree with others, appraise current research and theory, and develop confidence in their own judgment.

**3. Late Assignment Policy**

The penalty for all late assignments, including the final paper, is -5 grades per assignment for each 24-hour period following the deadline to a maximum of five (5) days after which the paper will no longer be accepted. Students are expected to contact the instructor immediately if they require special consideration for medical or compassionate reasons.

**Courselink Assignments**

Always retain an electronic copy of each of your assignments; the instructor may request these copies. When submitting your assignments using Courselink, be sure to not leave the page until your assignment has successfully uploaded. To verify that your submission was complete, you can view the Courselink submission history immediately after the upload to see which files uploaded successfully.

**In-Class Computers**

While the use of a computer or similar device during session is expected, you may be requested to turn off your device during the class and I reserve the right to ask you to turn your computer off for the semester if I consider it is a distraction.

**E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

The instructor will respond to emails within 48 hours except Saturdays and Sundays and reserve the right to ignore emails if they consider the issue redundant. Please enquire only about the issues that require immediate attention. Please read the syllabus, the materials posted on Courselink, and search on-line to try to find the answer to your question before contacting the course instructor. All email related to the course MUST contain "AVC\*6200" and your LAST name in the subject line plus a topic. Eg: "AVC\*6200 – SMITH –PROPOSAL"

### **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 10, 2017**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses](#), see the [Undergraduate Calendar](#).

### **Copies of out-of-class assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the [website](#).

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not

excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

### **Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted. Please turn your cell phone off during class.

### **Resources**

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.