



FINA*6540 MFA Seminar I

Fall 2020

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - June 24, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Examination of critical issues in the visual arts relevant to studio practice

1.2 Course Description

This MFA seminar course provides a forum for discussion and research into the nature and critique of a contemporary art practice with an emphasis on the relationship between theory and practice.

The course is designed to strengthen and broaden the observational and analytical skills of the student that is essential to becoming an active participant in the field of contemporary art as both an observer and producer by providing opportunities to examine and critique the various art historical, critical and theoretical issues confronting the contemporary artist today. Selected readings, accompanying class discussions, studio critiques, visual presentations and written assignments provide a spectrum of communication modes in which to engage with a variety of topics that are both relevant to the student and to the larger community.

The class meets once a week for 3 hours. The first half of each class will be reserved for lectures, discussions and presentations followed by informal studio visits in the second half. The schedule of studio visits, reading list and assignment details will be introduced at the first day of class.

In keeping with the University of Guelph's emergency response to COVID-19 this course will be primarily delivered online. Video conferencing software will be used for all class lectures, presentations, discussions and studio visits.

NOTE: Planning for online and blended learning continues to develop at the university in

response to COVID 19 and changes may occur at the beginning of the fall term on how these classes and studio visits are conducted.

1.3 Timetable

Students will receive a detailed syllabus at the first class.

1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam in this class. Final assignments are due on the last day of class, December 1, 2020.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Nestor Kruger
Email:	krugern@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x56852
Office:	ZAV 414
Office Hours:	By Appointment

3 Learning Resources

Students in FINA*6540 for F20 will use a variety of technologies for remote learning:

- [CourseLink](#) for accessing course outline, syllabus, assignment and reading outlines and for class announcements.
 - [CourseLink DropBox](#) for submitting writing assignments and presentations.
 - [Zoom](#) for synchronous class meetings, lectures, discussions, critiques.
 - [Microsoft Teams](#) for asynchronous discussions, comments, sharing of resources including required and supplementary readings and group collaborations.
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4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss a variety of critical issues specific to a contemporary art practice.
2. Analyze and formulate basic formal, conceptual and/or sociopolitical arguments to support or critique cultural objects and ideas related to contemporary art.
3. Articulate the broad theoretical and formal concerns relevant to their work in speech and

writing.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Responses (10%)

Date: Week 4

Learning Outcome: 1, 2

(4) Responses: Notes, Abstract, Reverse Outline, Moderator

Annotated bibliography (30%)

Date: Week 7

Learning Outcome: 1, 3

Research essay (40%)

Date: Week 12

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

Participation (20%)

Date: Week 12

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

7 Course Statements

7.1 Safety

All students registered in FINA*6540 can complete this course entirely on an online basis. All assignments, discussion and evaluation will take place remotely.

7.2 Accessibility

While all course content for FINA*6540 will be delivered remotely, Public Health and University guidelines may permit some limited access to the assigned studio spaces for this class for students wishing take the option .

The timetable for such access and the conditions under which it will be available are all TBA.

Any decisions regarding access to studios and on campus facilities will be in compliance with those guidelines. The primary purpose will be to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

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

8.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 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.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
