



FINA*6540 MFA Seminar I

Fall 2023

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - June 26, 2023

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

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

Restrictions: Restricted to Studio Art MFA students.

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.

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, November 29, 2023.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	John Kissick John Kissick
Email:	jkissick@uoguelph.ca
Office:	ZAV 316
Office Hours:	By Appointment

3 Learning Resources

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. 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.**
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

introductory presentation (10%)

Date: Week 3

Learning Outcome: 1, 2

(3) Responses: outline, reverse summary, summary (6%)

(1) Leading group discussion (10%)

Annotated bibliography (25%)

Date: Week 7

Learning Outcome: 1, 3

Research essay/presentation (40%)

Date: Week 12

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

Participation and leadership (25%)

Date: Week 12

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

7 University Statements

7.1 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.

7.2 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>

7.3 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>

7.4 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.

7.5 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

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>

7.6 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>

7.7 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.

7.8 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>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed

assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

7.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.
