# UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC

## COURSE TITLE: SART\*4900 CRITICAL PRACTICES IN STUDIO ART (1.0 cr)

# Instructor: Christian Giroux

# Classroom: Alexander 272

# time: Wed/ Fri. 8:30 - 11:30

# Office Hours: By Appointment

# Lab Fee: None

# COURSE OUTLINE

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

SART\*4900 Critical Practices in Studio Art

This capstone studio art course is an advanced and specialized program that encourages individual studio work, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of independent study strategies. Students undertake a major self-directed project, preparing them for graduate school and professional pursuits in the arts. While primarily self-directed, weekly classes include seminars, lectures, and student presentations with a focus on contemporary art, fostering active engagement through written responses and discussions.

*Prerequisite(s):* Two of the following SART\*4090, SART\*4200, SART\*4300, SART\*4410, SART\*4700 or SART\*4810

*Restriction(s): Limited to SART Majors with an average of 70% and the prerequisites listed above.*

Course objectives:

Critical Practices in Studio Art affords students the opportunity to develop independent studio work and to assist them in preparation for graduate school, and for life as a professional artist.

This course is designed to afford you ample time for Studio production, with the encouragement of your professor, GTA, and, most importantly, a community of other artists. Each student plays a key role in developing and contributing to the supportive dynamic and critical class community.

Participation in scheduled group activities and critiques as essential. Mid -semester and final critics function as exams. Attendance at critiques is mandatory.

The course is scheduled twice a week, three hours per class. Typically, one of these classes will be a seminar/lecture and the other a supervised work period.

Students are required to complete a substantial body of work each semester. The students' work is expected to incorporate significant research and be ambitious both in scope and realization.

Feedback on work in progress will be available from classmates and the instructor.

Attending local exhibitions, museums, visiting artist lecture's, etc. is part of the coursework. This research will help you understand how your work relates to contemporary art in Canada and internationally. You are also invited - and expected — to explore resources available on campus.

NOTE: This is a 1.0 credit course. Students are expected to dedicate approximately 10-12 hours per week outside of class time to their studio work, research and seminar preparation.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course,

* The student will have the ability to conduct research and create work independently.
* The student will achieve technical proficiency in the relevant discipline to their studio project.
* The student will achieve proficiency in time management relative to their studio work.
* The student can present and discuss their work with a professional audience.
* The student will be able to use analytical skills to examine texts in contemporary art creating insightful associations and illustrating a nuanced understanding of the theoretical propositions in contemporary art.
* The student will be able to thoroughly analyze and critique work by others (including their classmates). They will be able to express their analysis orally and summarize them in written form.
* The student will be able to apply their skills in real-world situations, demonstrating professional competencies in studio management including safety protocols and best practices.
* At the conclusion of this course, students will engage in a reflective practice to self -evaluate knowledge and the advancement of their learning.

## Course requirements

The requirements for the course include:

* Prompt and regular attendance and participation in all classes
* Timely and thorough preparation for discussion classes (written notes)
* Readiness for studio visits
* Professional presentation of work for midterm and final critiques
* Curiosity about, interest in and energetic obsession with a research topic of your choice
* Serious time commitment to developing a robust studio practice
* Willingness to engage with ideas, and peers, and to tackle self-imposed challenges

**(Sample Assessments)**

1 Written work 15%

1. Mid-term critique. 30%
2. Final critique 40%
3. Professionalism:. 15%

*Professional* conduct in *a shared studio looks like this: arrive on time, maintain your space in accordance with health and safety guidelines, and help maintain the shared area space.*

*Alert the professor or monitor if things need attention.*

*Professional conduct includes how you help to create a dynamic studio classroom. Creative communities form and thrive in an environment that fosters curiosity, exploration, expression and* dialogue. *Such an environment is co-created by all members of the class.*

*Professionalism also means having your work ready for critique days.*

Final Exam:

Final critiques are the equivalent of a final exam. Students must be present for the final critique, at which they will present their projects for discussion and review by their classmates and the professor. Works are to be installed to approximate gallery standards before the final critique class begins.

## Grades will be assigned according to university grading procedures:

https //www uoguelph ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml

* *80 - 100 (A) Excellent.* An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
* *70 - 79 (B) Good.* A more than adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a thorough grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to organize and examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the relevant issues and a familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
* *60 - 69 (C)* Acceptable. An adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a generally adequate grasp of the subject matter and a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student displays an adequate understanding of the relevant issues, and a general familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
* *50 - 59 (D)* Minimally Acceptable. A barely adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a familiarity with the subject matter, but whose attempts to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner are only partially successful. The student displays some understanding of the relevant issues, and some familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
* 0 - 49 (F) Fail. An inadequate performance.

***SAFETY:***

Safety in the studio is a priority at all times. It is imperative that students follow all health and safety procedures and always use the appropriate safety equipment. It is also imperative that the studios and the building remain clean. Students are responsible for the repair of any damage caused to the facility. Grades will be withheld until individual studio spaces pass inspection.