EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
VISUAL ARTS
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art
FA / VISA 4090D6.0 SECTION A
PAINTING: CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATIONS
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

LAST MODIFIED DATE: 09/08/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Provides a focused practicum for senior students that examines contemporary practices in painting. This course is structured around self-initiated projects under the direction of the instructor. Through the coupling of theoretical and practical explorations, the course facilitates students' ability to develop their individual projects within the contemporary context of representational and abstract art, popular culture and mass media. Prerequisites: 3 credits from the 302x plus 3 credits from the 302x or 308x series of courses with a grade of B or better, 3rd or 4th year standing.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lau, Yam K</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yamlau@yorku.ca">yamlau@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES
I create my own oxygen
-Ludwig Wittgenstein

4090 is an intensive course offered at the last year of the undergraduate program. It offers students the freedom and opportunity to examine, reflect and synthetize past experiences, with a goal to cultivate an independent artistic voice- the most valuable element in professional art practice. Hence, the course requires student to be proactive and take initiative to outline and achieve their goal.

The course is mostly self-directed. Students are regarded as aspiring artists who set and realize their individual artistic goals. This is the “project” of this course. It will not be easy, but is necessary. The professor will not “teach” in the conventional sense but will lead, intervene and act as catalyst to help students realize these goals.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS
The course will not be “taught” in the conventional sense. It is because its objective cannot be “taught”. Students define, explore and realize their individual artistic goals. This is the objective, and also the only project in this course. The professor will assist and challenge students to realize this “project”.

The objective will be explored through 5 components: 1. A statement of artistic goal. 2. Self-directed art projects 3. Individual discussions 4. Visual presentations/discussions 5. Group reviews within the class and with another 4090 class.

1. Formulation of artistic goals, philosophy and methodology in a written proposal (graded)
2. Individual discussions with students to formulate challenging and meaningful approaches to their proposed work.

3. Visual presentations on contemporary art practices. It is important to note that class time is not solely spent on studio work. A certain amount of class time is designated for discussions and presentations. Students are expected to use the studio as a “home”, where they live the life of the artist.

4. Self-directed projects will be determined through a one-on-one basis between the student and the professor. The professor will motivate the student to refine and enlarge the scope of their trajectories.

5. Group presentations to review the artwork and develop the language to speak about art.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Students will experience and benefit from the challenge of self-determination. They will develop an individual body of work of contemporary relevance. This body of work is a step towards a successful application of graduate studies and professional practice.

Work Load and Expectation

In order to succeed in this course, you must:

1. Attend all classes and participate fully. This is for your own good. Bear in mind that even though the participation grade is only 15% of the total, your absences can work against it. On the other hand, participation is not just attending classes. Working with the class as a community, showing interest and support to your colleagues work is also important factors that contribute to a dynamic class culture.

2. Arrive on time and participate during the duration of the class (including guest speakers and fieldtrip). It is important to be punctual. A student will be marked absent if he or she is 15 minutes late or leaves class early.

3. Expect to spend an additional 6 hours each week on your artwork. I suggest that you take advantage of the painting studio, which is available outside class time.

4. Keep the studio clean and in good order.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Projects and Breakdown

- Individual statement and program of work 15%
- Fall term work 10%, 25%
- Winter term work 10%, 25%
- Participation 15%

Total 100%

Course Text / Readings

Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

Evaluation

The grades will be posted in the studio, usually a week after the critique of the assignment.
Your work will be graded on your creativity, ambition and effort (i.e. how you push your work as far as possible). It is also evaluated a.within the context of the class, b.the student’s development c.the professor’s experience of past students’ works  d.within the context of contemporary art practice. A grade will not be given unless the professor is absolutely certain that he can defend it, and that the grade is fair to every student who has ever received a grade from him.

**Schedule 2017-2018**

*Note: this schedule is subject to change. Revisions will be announced in class*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept.7</td>
<td>Course outline; Assignment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept.14</td>
<td><strong>Assignment due</strong>, work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Sept.21</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Sept.28</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Oct.5</td>
<td>Guest speakers for all 4090s, Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Oct.12</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Oct.19</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term review</strong></td>
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<td>Oct.26</td>
<td><strong>Fall Reading Days: no class</strong></td>
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<td>Nov.2</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Nov.9</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Nov.16</td>
<td>Informal group review for all 4090 classes</td>
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<td>Nov.23</td>
<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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*Last date to drop fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 10, 2017*
**Fall term review, Gallery exhibition (Nov 27-30)**

**Winter term (Tentative)**

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Jan.4</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Jan.11</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Jan.18</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Jan.25</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Feb.1</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Feb.8</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>Feb.15</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-term review</strong></td>
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<td>Feb.22</td>
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<td><strong>Co-curricular week: No class</strong></td>
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<td>March.1</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>March.8</td>
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<td>Informal group review for all 4090 classes *</td>
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<td>March.15</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>March.22</td>
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<td>March.29</td>
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<td>Work period and individual discussion</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
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<td><strong>Winter term review</strong></td>
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* Highlighted cells indicate all 4090 classes will participate together

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

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**Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)
Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Fine Arts section of the Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2010-2011/faculty_rules/FA/grading.htm

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in the painting studio (CFA 340) in area designated by the professor.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized (one-half letter grade (1 grade point) per day that assignment is late). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor (extension for due date). Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specific requirements: art supplies, clothes for painting

Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 10, 2017
Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 9, 2018
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:
York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
• Access/Disability
• Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
• Religious Observance Accommodation
Student Code of Conduct

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf

Additional information:
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
• Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy
• The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.
Important University Sessional Dates - you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

Manage my Academic record
http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/

"20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University