



## CREATIVITY STUDIO DH2127B

### 1. Course Information

#### CREATIVITY STUDIO DH2127B

WINTER 2024

Lectures: Mondays, 15:30-16:20 at AHB 1B04, only on 8, 15, 22, 29 January, and 5 February.

Learning Circles: Thursdays at UC 1110, Sec. 1 at 10:30, Sec. 2 at 11:30. Every week, except otherwise communicated to you.

Office Hours with TAs: Online, unless specified otherwise. Contact your TA at their email address.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A Sketch Notebook 11.5x17.5 cm, blank pages.
- Several pencils HB2.
- Readings to be provided through Western Libraries.
- Stable internet connection.
- Computer with working microphone and/or webcam.

### 2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Juan Luis Suárez	<a href="mailto:jsuarez@uwo.ca">jsuarez@uwo.ca</a>	UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
		UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
		UC3130	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only
		UC1304	N/A	Office hours: By appointment only

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:@uwo.ca)) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

### 3. Suggested (Weekly) Learning Journey

Monday: Podcast dropped.

Mondays 15, 22, 29 January, and 5 February: Lecture/Practice on Personal Business Plan.

Tuesday: Leaders & Learners: Forum's Questions by Leaders.

Wednesday: Leaders & Learners: Forum's Answers by Learners.

Thursday: Learning Circles with Hand Practice/Sketchbook Submission, and Personal Reflection.

Friday: Readings for following week.

Sat/Sun: Do nothing.

### 4. Delivery Mode

In this **blended course**, you will learn and practice how to train and enhance your creativity by putting into practice a method of Digital Craftmanship supported by an understanding of creativity as craftmanship of the self, and a philosophy of the digital condition that highlights the importance of

doing, making and creating values at the intersection of the analogue and the digital: the body is the epicenter of all human experience.

In-person: Learning Circles, on Thursdays.

Lectures on Mondays, only on 7, 15, 22, 29 January, and 5 February.

Online: Reflective Practices (OWL Forums) on Tuesdays/Wednesdays.

Online: Assignments.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to understand the fundamental concepts of Digital Craftmanship and apply the learnings from these concepts **to your own personal and professional life** through a set of *Reflective Practices (Leaders & Learners)* carried out weekly. Also weekly, you will work on a diversity of Design Challenges that will help you translate those concepts into skills to craft your own self and compose your life at the boundary of the digital/analogue. In the middle of the term, you will have the chance to pause and think about your personal and professional life by endeavouring in the elaboration of your own Personal Business Plan. At the end of the term, all these activities come together in your final work, the *Tool Kit for Digital Craftmanship*, where you will learn how to synthesize and compile your learnings and acquired skills into your own workbook.

### Learning Outcomes / Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have acquired:

- Knowledge:
  - Some concepts of creativity, craftmanship, and the digital.
  - Foundations of the human experience.
  - Understanding of relations between the way the digital is designed and your human experience.
  - Authors and creators who have delved into the former.
- Values:
  - Identify the values that creative individuals practice.
  - Practice the values inherent to craftmanship across domains.
  - Identify the values to practice when the environment is within us.
- Skills:
  - Hand and paper-based Note Taking and Sketching.
  - How to deal with Design Challenges.
  - Business Plan Development.
  - How to Argue correctly by designing proper questions and answers.

## 6. Important Dates

- Lectures begin January 8, 2024
- Podcasts, Leaders & Learners on OWL begin January 15, 2023, and finish April 4, 2024
- Learning Circles begin January 18, and finish March 29 (Thursday), 2024
- Spring Reading Week: February 17 – February 25, 2024
- Classes end: April 8, 2024
- **Due Dates for Special Projects:**
  - **Personal Business Plan: February 14, 11:55pm.**

- Toolkit for Digital Craftmanship: April 8, 11:55pm.

## Calendar of Activities

Week	Lectures	Learning Circles	Leaders & Learners	Podcast
1	YES	NO	NO	NO
2	YES	YES	YES	YES
3	YES	YES	YES	YES
4	YES	YES	YES	YES
5	YES	YES	YES	YES
6	NO	NO	YES	YES
<i>Reading Week</i>				
7	NO	YES	YES	YES
8	NO	YES	YES	YES
9	NO	YES	YES	YES
10	NO	NO	YES	YES
11	NO	YES	YES	YES
12	NO	NO	YES	YES
13	NO	NO	NO	NO

### Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## 7. Podcasts & Learning Circles

Podcasts:

- Dropped weekly, topics based on Reading Materials of the week. Source for Leaders & Learners, and Learning Circles.
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Learning Circles:

- Dialogue on Reading Materials/Podcast led by Professor of an estimated 30' duration.
  - Goal: explain and discuss main concepts and applications of the weekly materials.
- Hand Note Taking and Sketching Session by Students of an estimated 35' duration.
  - Goal: hand-write three main ideas + sum up in a sketch.
  - Each Week of Notebook work is worth 1 point towards the Final Grade, up to 8 points.
- Personal Reflection: OWL, in 200 words, "What did I learn about myself in this session?"
  - Each Week Personal Reflection is worth 2 points towards the Final Grade, up to 16 points.

Week	Topic	Materials (available at <a href="https://course readings.lib.uwo.ca">https://course readings.lib.uwo.ca</a> )
1	Introduction to the Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecture</li> </ul>
2	Nature and Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A.N. Whitehead. "Lecture I." <i>Nature and Life</i>. The Cambridge Miscellany XIII. Cambridge 1934, pp. 7-49.</li> </ul>
3	The Embodied Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antonio Damasio. <i>Feeling and Knowing: Making Minds Conscious</i>. Vintage 2022, pp. 3-40.</li> <li>Antonio Damasio. <i>The Strange Order of Things</i>. Pantheon, 2018, pp. 117-142.</li> <li>Bessel van der Kolk. <i>The Body Keeps the Score</i>. Penguin 2015, pp. 265-278.</li> </ul>
4	The Rhythms of Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Carson. <i>Silent Spring</i>. Mariner 1962, pp. 1-13 and 277-297.</li> <li>James Rebanks. <i>The Shepherd's Life</i>. Anchor 2016, pp. xiii-xxii; 2-5; 171-177.</li> <li>James Rebanks. <i>Pastoral Song</i>. HarperCollins 2020, pp. 84-86; 152-156; 173-184; 216-217; 234-285.</li> </ul>
5	Immortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A.N. Whitehead. "Immortality." <i>The Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead</i>, ed. by Paul Arthur Schilpp, Second Edition. (Open Court Publishing Co., La Salle, Ill., 1951), pp. 682-700.</li> </ul>
6	Interruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Catherine Bateson. <i>Composing a Life</i>. Grove 1989, pp. 1-34; 35-42; 232-241.</li> </ul>
7	Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haruki Murakami. <i>What I Talk About When I Talk About Running. A Memoir</i>. Street Books 2008, pp. v-viii; 3-23; 24-37; 69-87.</li> </ul>
8	Craftsmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Sennett. <i>The Craftsman</i>. Yale UP 2008, pp. 19-52; 53-80.</li> <li>Ian Brown. "How Do You Pick the Perfect Concert Piano?" <i>The Globe and Mail</i> 23 Dec 2022; <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/article-koerner-hall-concert-grand-piano-royal-conservatory/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/article-koerner-hall-concert-grand-piano-royal-conservatory/</a></li> </ul>
9	Friction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna Wiener. <i>The Uncanny Valley: A Memoir</i>. MCD 2020, pp. TBA.</li> </ul>
10	Curation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonnie Kemske. " ." <i>Kintsugi. The Poetic Mend</i>. Herbert Press 2021, pp. 11-34; 137-153.</li> <li>Pui Ying Kwan. "Exploring Japanese Art and Aesthetic as Inspiration for Emotionally Durable Design." <a href="https://www.designedasia.com/2012/Full_Papers/Exploring%20Japanese%20Art%20and%20Aesthetic.pdf">https://www.designedasia.com/2012/Full_Papers/Exploring%20Japanese%20Art%20and%20Aesthetic.pdf</a></li> <li>Jean Keller, Eva Feder Kittay. "Feminist Ethics of Care." <i>The Routledge Companion to Feminist Philosophy</i>. Online via Western Libraries.</li> </ul>
11	Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helga Nowotny. <i>An Orderly Mess</i>. CEU Press 2017, pp. 15-36.</li> <li>Hartmut Rosa. <i>Alienation and Acceleration</i>. NSU Press 2013, pp. 13-33.</li> <li>Gilles Deleuze. <i>Bergsonism</i>. Zone Books 1988. "Chapter 2: Duration as Immediate Data."</li> </ul>
12	Digital Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaclav Smil. <i>Grand Transitions</i>. Oxford UP 2021, pp. 1-24.</li> <li>Thomas Haigh. "Introducing the Early Digital." <i>Exploring the Early Digital</i>. Springer 2019, pp 1-16. Online via Western Libraries.</li> <li>The Ezra Klein Show. A Skeptical Tale on the A.I. Revolution. Jan. 6, 2023. Podcast available on <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-gary-marcus.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/opinion/ezra-klein-podcast-gary-marcus.html</a> and podcasts platforms.</li> <li>Gary Marcus and Ernest Davis. <i>Rebooting AI. Building Artificial Intelligence We Can Trust</i>. Vintage 2020, pp. 180-199.</li> </ul>
13	Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readings TBA</li> </ul>

## 8. Leaders and Learners, or Forums (OWL)

- How do the weekly *Reflective Pieces (Leaders & Learners)* work?:
  - Check OWL to learn the Lab section you are in and your TA's name.
  - It starts on Week 2 (Jan. 17) and ends on Week 11 (April 5).
  - It runs every week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Every Lab section works separately on OWL forums.
  - This is an *alternate week* activity:
    - Every week YOU alternate as Leader or Learner. For example, if you are a Leader in the first week, then you will be a Learner in the second week. Your TA will tell you during the first week of the course whether you start this activity as a Leader or a Learner. After the first week, it is your responsibility to know which role you are playing every week.
    - Leaders post questions related to the Lecture and Materials of that week. Learners answer those questions using the Materials of the week.
  - Leaders post questions to the forum before Tuesday at 11:55pm EST. Questions posted after this date/time will be declared invalid and marked as 0.
  - Learners answer questions on the forum before Wednesday at 11:55pm EST.
  - Leaders post 1 question to each of the forum's categories. Learners answer 1 question to each of the forum's categories:
    - Facts: these questions relate to important facts about the individual, their business, their ideas, the conception of creativity; these facts must be relevant to better understand the type of creative we are studying and they should not simple facts such as where the person was born, etc.
    - Application: these questions refer to the real life application of the materials studied during the week as they are transferred to your own lives, work, plans, etc. They must be based and argued from the materials. Minimum word count for questions is 100 words and for answers is 250 words.
    - Creation: these questions create a possible scenario in which you or someone else will use what you have learned from the materials. Minimum word count for questions is 100 words and for answers is 250 words.
  - Other rules:
    - Leaders cannot repeat questions already posted, and Learners cannot answer questions already answered by other Learners, unless the answer is substantially different from previous ones.
    - Questions and Answers about Facts are worth a maximum of .5.
    - Questions and Answers about Application are worth a maximum of 1.
    - Questions and Answers about Creation are worth a maximum of 1.5. A detailed Rubric for this activity will be posted on OWL.

## 9. Lectures (in-Person), only on 15, 22, 29 January, and 5 February.

- Personal Business Plans (PBP):

- Personal Business Plans will be prepared in Lectures during Weeks 2, 3, 4, and 5 using your Notebooks.
- At the end of each session, you will submit your work. Each of the four Lecture's submissions is worth 2 points towards your Final Grade.
- After completing the fourth session on your PBP you will have a week to finalize the work and move your sketches/notes/research to a digital canvas for the final version of the PBP. Submission of the final version of the PBP will be via OWL.
- The final version of the PBP is worth 20 points towards your Final Grade.

Date	Activity
January 15	Personal Business Plan #1
January 22	Personal Business Plan #2
January 29	Personal Business Plan #3
February 5	Personal Business Plan #4
February 14	<i>Due Date: Personal Business Plan</i>

## 10. Assignments (x2)

- Personal Business Plans (PBP):
  - 4 Lab submissions (Notebook) due at the end of each Lecture session: Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5.
  - Final digital version submission: February 14, 11:55pm, via OWL.
- Toolkit for Digital Craftsmanship:
  - Digital Format.
  - Submission: April 8, 11:55pm, via OWL.

## 11. Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- **Learning Circles:** **24%**
  - Notebook/Sketch handed in, end of Learning Circle:
    - 8% (1% x 8)
  - Personal Reflection in class/OWL:
    - 16% (2% x 8)
- **Leaders & Learners (Forums):** **33%**
  - on OWL (3% x 11 weeks)
  - Topics in weekly Readings and Podcasts
- **Personal Business Plan/Lectures:** **28%**
  - 4 sketches/drafts x 2 points
    - 8%
  - Final digital version
    - 20%

Due: February 5, 11:55pm, via OWL
- **Tool Kit of Digital Craftsmanship:** **15%**
  - Due: April 5, 11:55pm, via OWL

### **Course-specific policies/conditions**

- **A minimum of SIX participations in the weekly Leaders & Learners (Forums), with a minimum grade of 50% in each of them, is required to PASS this course.**
- **Sketchbook work and Personal Reflections (Learning Circles): a minimum of SIX (passed) participations is required to PASS this course.**
- **Lectures and Learning Circles are live events. No powerpoints will be posted online for this course.**
- **If you are not able to submit something, please check the policy for making up missed work in Section 13 of this syllabus.**
- **Leaders & Learners submitted after the respective deadline will not be graded.**
- **Installments of the PBP submitted after the respective deadline will not be graded.**
- **For the Final digital version of the PBP and the Tool Kit for Digital Craftsmanship, late submissions will incur in the following penalties:**
  - **15 minutes after the deadline: under the instructor's discretion.**
  - **Between 16 minutes and 23hrs and 45mins after deadline: 10%.**
  - **Between 24 hours and 48 hours: 20%.**
  - **After 48 hours: submission will not be graded.**

### **OWL**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## **13. Student Absences**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below:

### **Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:**

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, you must submit an email to your TA with the appropriate medical documentation justifying your late/no submission. This email must be sent to your TA before the due date of the missed work. Each piece of missed work will be replaced by a 1000-word essay based on the corresponding materials. The topic of the essay will be provided by your TA. You will send the essay to your TA within 48hrs of receiving the topic you have to write about.

### **Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above.**

## 14. Accommodation and Accessibility

### Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/AcademicAccommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/AcademicAccommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## 15. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

**Note: Use of recording or photographic devices is not be permitted during Lectures.**

### Academic Offences

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software

All required materials may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).



## 16. Support Services

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **Digital Student Experience**

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.