FIMS 9625 Creative Work
Spring 2022 (May-June)
Online Hybrid Course
Synchronous sessions run on Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-4:20pm.

Instructor: Sarah Smith
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Office hours: online, by appointment

In accordance with the overall objectives of the PhD in Media Studies, this course aims to contribute to the study of the social, cultural, economic and political forces at play in the convergence of media, technologies, and industries.

Course Description

Creative work has an uneasy relationship with labour. Careers in the arts, culture, and media industries are increasingly seen as a desirable way for individual workers to find personal fulfillment and as a means of reinvigorating post-industrial economies. But, is it so straightforward? This online hybrid intensive course addresses developments in creative work and contemporary society through examination of scholarship on culture, creativity, and labour. Topics include the creative industries, affective labour and visibility labour, as well as precarious work, gender, and inequality. The course also addresses creative approaches to scholarship by exploring debates in research-creation and arts-based research. The course literature draws from a range of disciplinary sources, including communication studies, cultural studies, and sociology, amongst others. Through exploration of these methods and literature, students will gain an understanding of diverse approaches to creative work and have the opportunity to reflect critically on their own experiences and knowledge of labour. Students will also gain an appreciation for case studies in the fields of fashion and design, visual art, and digital media work, amongst others. As part of learning about research-creation, students will engage with creative methods in their course assignments. Experience is not required. Instead, the emphasis is on the process and students' engagement, not the outcome. As such, students are encouraged to experiment with new approaches and reflect on their success or failure.

This online course has a hybrid format, which means that student learning will take place synchronously and asynchronously. We will meet as a group for synchronous discussions according to the class schedule. On the dates that we do not meet, students will advance their learning asynchronously, accessing course content via OWL. Please note this is an intensive graduate course, which means that it is condensed over seven weeks, rather than a full semester. As a result, you should anticipate a higher-than-normal workload. Please prepare to manage your time accordingly and reach out to the instructor if you have any questions about the intensive nature of the course.

Class Schedule

Classes are synchronous unless otherwise identified. Synchronous classes will take place on Zoom from 1:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

May   10   Introduction (Leary)

	12	Creativity & Labour (Siciliano, McRobbie, Kong)
	17	Research-Creation and Environmental Research (White and online resources)
	19	Debates in Research-Creation (Chapman & Sawchuk, Loveless, Springgay et al.)
	24	Inequality & Creative Work (Alacovska & Gill, Close & Wang, Eikhof)
	26	Workshop - Creative Methods & Tools
	31	Visibility Labour & Affective Labour (Arvidsson et al., Abidin, Woodcock & Johnson)
June	2	Art Work (de Peuter & Cohen, Cliche, Gerber)
	7	Portrait of Resistance – Asynchronous (view Owen & Miller)
	9	Arts-Based Research – Asynchronous (Soria-Donlan, Flicker et al., Fonseka et al.)
	14	Gender, Feminism & Labour (Weeks, Duffy, Harvey & Fisher)
	16	Creativity & Crisis – Asynchronous (view McMaster Museum of Art)
	21	Creative Spaces (Merkel, Davies, Ring)
	23	Conclusions & Reflection

Course Materials

All required course materials will be made available online via OWL and Western Libraries. The instructor will also ask students to consult supplementary materials for further information on case studies for specific classes. These materials will all be accessible remotely and will include digital images, websites and diverse media sources. Links to relevant online materials will also be provided via OWL.

Assignments

Keyword: 10%
This assignment requires you to create a definition for a keyword that is relevant to the study of creative work. Your definition will be informed by relevant scholarship and creative practice. These keywords will be shared amongst the class and contribute to a larger study document for

the term. Assignment instructions will be distributed via OWL and the assignment is due on May 20, 2022.

Creative Method: 20%
This assignment requires you to introduce a creative method (approach, tool, or technique) to the class, providing a one-page summary of the method for distribution to the class. Additionally, you are required to write a short response paper assessing the use of this creative method. Assignment instructions will be distributed via OWL and the assignment is due on May 26, 2022.

Annotated Bibliography: 30%
This assignment requires you to identify and explore a particular area of the literature to produce an annotated bibliography of scholarly sources addressing a specific stream of thinking or topic in creative work. This annotated bibliography will be accompanied by a short overview of the topic. Assignment instructions will be distributed via OWL and the assignment is due on June 17, 2021.

Research-Creation Project: 20%
One of the goals of this course is to allow you to gain competency in research-creation and creative methods. This assignment requires you to design and undertake an appropriately-scaled research-creation project. Each student will have the opportunity to discuss and workshop their proposed project. Assignment instructions will be distributed via OWL and the assignment is due on June 23, 2022.

Attendance & Participation: 20%
Synchronous sessions will be run as seminars, requiring student attendance and participation. To have a successful class each student must come to class having completed all of the assigned readings and prepared to actively engage in discussion with their classmates. In each class you will be required to comment critically on the readings and supplementary material, ask questions, and exchange ideas. You are also expected to initiate discussion and recognize the shared responsibility for creating an open dialogue in each class.

<u>Course Policies</u>

Health/Wellness Services
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)
Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both **AEW** and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Scholastic 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_grad.pdf

Statement on Student Conduct Online
Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the instructor and fellow students. A reminder that our online course environment should be treated as a public space and students should comport themselves accordingly. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:
- Adhere to the same standards of behaviour online that you follow in real life and in a real classroom.
- Know where you are in cyberspace, and understand that many people will view what you type.
- Respect other people's time and bandwidth – so contribute valuable comments rather than "noise."
- Express yourself clearly online and respect the views of others.
- Use proper and respectful language and refrain from any off-colour jokes, insults, or threats.
- Challenge ideas rather than the person who offer the ideas. When you challenge an idea, do so respectfully and with the goal of increasing everyone's knowledge.

All students are expected to, at minimum, ensure their engagement in the online learning environment is respectful, polite, and appropriate. During all class-related activities, whether synchronous or asynchronous, students are expected to engage in respectful and courteous communication.