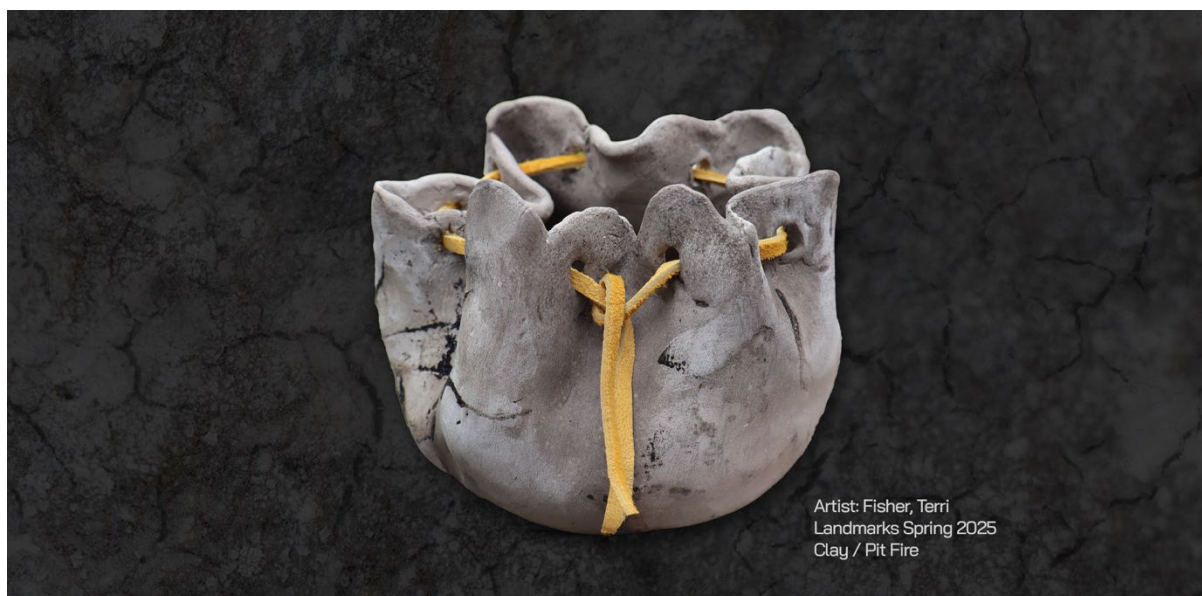


Studio Art and Indigenous Studies 2676/ 3676

LANDMARKS: SPATIAL STORYTELLING, LAND, ART, PLACE & COMMUNITY

Fall 2025



Territory Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek (Ahnish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Høden-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Lenahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Instructor:

Jackson Leween, Two Bears, Ph.D. (Tēkeniyáhsen Ohkwá:ri)
Associate Professor, Visual Arts and Indigenous Studies
Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Indigenous Arts Research & Technology
Director: Otekhñòtshera Ratirihwisaks Etho:onhwentsyáke (OTEKH)
Co-Director: Abundant Intelligences Project
Email: jackson.twobears@uwo.ca | Office: 9-11 Mondays

Time and Location:

September 5 – December 5 / Friday's 8:30 – 2:30

This course requires 6 hrs/wk in-class, plus an additional 3-6 hrs/wk (approx.) outside of class time to complete your projects. We will be working at the Visual Arts Building and Museum of Ontario Archaeology (see schedule for details).

Calendar Description:

For Haudenosaunee the landscape is an animate, living, and embodied archive with which we are all interconnected. This studio-based course involves community engagement learning where students will create site-specific artworks that explore our (inter)relationships with the living archive of 'place', while inspired by the rich cultural histories of this territory.

Course Description:

The Indigenous worldview maintains that history and cultural memory is something 'written on the land'—that the landscape is an animate, living, and embodied archive. From this perspective this course endeavours to explore what Vine Deloria Jr. called the 'spatiality' of storytelling—how stories can be dimensional as well as durational; how narratives are interconnected with 'place', the landscape and the environment. At its core, this course is about embodied storytelling, and the ways in which we might 'participate' with the stories on the-land while exploring our own individual relationships with the living archive of place.

Antirequisite(s):

Indigenous Studies 2676A/B and Studio Art 2676A/B.

Pre or Corequisites:

Prerequisite(s): Studio Art 1601 or Studio Art 1605, or the former VAS 1020, or the former VAS 1025, or 1.0 from Art History 1640 or the former VAH 1040 or two of Art History 1641A/B–1648A/B or the former VAH 1041A/B/1045A/B or permission of the Department or Indigenous Studies 1020E.

Extra Information:

6 studio hours, lecture, blended or online format. Priority will be given to students registered in a Visual Arts program. Cross-listed with Indigenous Studies 2676A/B
Course Weight: 0.50

Course Overview:

LandMarks is a studio-based course where students will apply conceptual, technical and creative skills in the research and production of contemporary art projects in the areas of photo, video, drawing, sculpture, performance, installation, and interdisciplinary practices. This course will include studio time, visual lectures, readings and critiques. There will be an emphasis on working collaboratively in this course, with group projects (in studio) making up the majority of classroom assignments; this will be inspired and enframed by Indigenous ways of knowing, being, sharing, learning and creating. Understanding that art practices are linked with academic explorations, students will also examine the contextualization of their work in relation to significant areas of contemporary thought. This course encourages art production through self-directed study and collaborative group activities; each student is expected to contribute to a collegial and dynamic work environment, and to actively participate in all classroom discussions and activities. As this is a studio-based course it requires a time commitment of approximately 9 hours per week—six scheduled class hours and three additional work hours.