Art 2400-1, 1st Year Studio, Introduction to Visual Language (Course # 1601)  
Department of Art and Art History  
Fall 2016  
2 credits  
Maureen O’Hara Ure, Assistant Professor (Lecturer)  
Teaching Assistants: William Curtis & Natalie Oliver  
Friday 9:40 am to 11:35 am  
JTB 310 (Presidents’ Circle on lower campus, SW of the Park Building)

Office hour:  Starting 8/31, Weds 2 to 3 pm, ART 366, for drop-ins.  
Otherwise, by appointment. If I have to cancel an office hour, I 
will try to give notice in class & on Canvas.

Pre-requisite:  Pre-art major status. (See College advisor for 
access to this & other 1st Year Studio classes.)

Class fulfills:  1st Year pre-art major credit

Messages:  Leave messages with staff in Dept office, ART 161 for 
my mailbox or leave in envelope on my office door. (I will NOT 
receive messages via Canvas.) Be sure the U has the 
email you use on file & check your email frequently as this 
will be primary way Department & College will send you 
information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from the Catalogue)  
This course is designed to introduce 1st Year Studio pre-art majors to basic terms, 
methods, & concepts in the visual arts. Slide lectures will feature contemporary art -- 
primarily work of the past 3 decades. The hundreds of images to be discussed during the 
semester will represent a wide variety of experiments in disciplines students will investigate 
as they move through the studio art program.

COURSE CONTENT & OBJECTIVES

By semester's end, students should have a good beginning grasp of basic terms & 
concepts in the visual arts. They will have become acquainted through slide 
lectures with current trends, with the intellectual concerns & studio practice of a 
wide variety of contemporary artists. Students will be encouraged to draw 
connections between points made in these lectures & material they encounter in 
studio courses. (Guest lecturers will include some of their professors.) This class 
is to serve as a clearinghouse for information about the studio program, about 
the emphasis individual students will select this spring, & other first-year 
concerns.
NOTE on CONTENT: Starting with the first week’s consideration of The Human Body (as a major historical & contemporary topic in visual art), there may be imagery & other content in a few lectures which some would regard as controversial, even offensive, material.

EVALUATION METHODS & GRADING POLICY
Approximately 2 weeks before Test One (Oct 7) & Test Two (Dec 2), I will post a thorough on-line review on Canvas. Site will be designed to help students recall terms, concepts & 50 images (by approximately 35 artists) from the preceding weeks' lectures. PRINT UP the Canvas Study Guide to avoid any last-minute network glitches. Block out study times now to thoroughly review artists' names, works, terms & concepts. On the 2 tests, you will need to identify a given slide, spelling artist’s first & last name correctly for maximum credit, then give 2 points recalled from the site (or from lectures.) See example of a test question below:

I project an image of Spiral Jetty, the early influential land art Robert Smithson created in 1970 in the Great Salt Lake. You respond by writing his name, then you list 2 (not several) aspects you recall from the Canvas study guide or from class lectures. Examples how 4 different students may respond for full credit:

Robert Smithson  Spiral Jetty / Land Art

Robert Smithson  Great Salt Lake / Opposes idea of art as a commodity

Robert Smithson  Heroic scale / Earthwork

Robert Smithson  Black basalt / Some years submerged by high water

Students who actively participate in course, attending class consistently, who engage with the lectures and discussions, go to all required exhibits & master the Canvas study site information do very well in this course. (It is not uncommon for a large percentage of students to earn high grades in this 2-credit class. Every year, however, some students fail to attend regularly and don't study for tests, and those students need to repeat the class for credit later.) Do not let poor attendance jeopardize your future at the University, your eligibility for loans etc.

It is not necessary to take notes in lectures (& I prefer you devote the time & energy looking at slides projected) & I will give you all the information on Canvas you need to excel in course, but of course you may take notes. If you do take notes, do this longhand (to avoid distracting others with electronics in our darkened auditorium.)
TEST ONE & TEST TWO SCORES
I will use Test One, worth approximately 100 points, in part to teach you how to review for & successfully take Test Two, which will be worth approximately 200 points. Expect the December 2nd test to revisit some items from 1st half of term. Your score on Test Two plus your attendance/participation may make up over two-thirds your final grade for the semester.

ATTENDANCE/ PUNCTUALITY POLICY  Good, on-time attendance and participation in weekly 2-hour lectures will be 1 component determining your final grade. If you hope to excel in this course, start with presumption you will attend all classes. If you have conflicts with this once-a-week Friday schedule, including conflicts with 2 Test Days, you should drop course & take it some future Fall term.

To underline the importance of attending lectures, I will take roll on several random days. I may factor in your missing more than 2 classes (with or without excuse) in determining your final grade. (Just memorizing site information on 100 slides this semester is not the equivalent of attending 2 hours every week, being part of lectures when we will see many hundreds of slides, & will hear from guest artists on their work.)

FINAL GRADES
Below are some recent years' approximate test score ranges for typical groups of students (before final scores lowered for participation/ attendance issues. There is some variation in the grade ranges from one year's class to the next.)
A= Excellent. Good attendance/ participation & superior recall of concepts, work, ability to respond to assigned exhibits etc, on tests. (In recent years, final cumulative score on tests approximately 92-100%.)
B= Good. Good attendance/participation & performance on written tests (Scores approximately 81-91%)
C= Fair. Attendance/ participation in course likely an issue. Fair performance on written tests (Scores 61-80%)
D= Poor. Inadequate attendance/ participation & performance on written tests to receive Dept. pre-art major credit (Scores 43-60%)
E= Very poor attendance, very poor written work etc, judged inadequate to receive any University credit (Scores 42% or below)

FEES  $25.00, part of tuition, support collection of images for course & maintenance of Canvas review site.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS
This course will be slide-lecture-based, exposing students to many hundreds of images of contemporary work, gradually familiarizing students with terms, concepts, & trends in the visual arts. The majority of slides will be drawn from the past 35 years; most artists screened are still alive & productive. Calendar for class will be posted outside the Art Building’s 3rd floor atrium/ Owen Reading Room area, updated weekly. Upcoming test reviews, weekly topics, 2 test dates,
Required Shows' dates, locations etc will be projected weekly in class, then noted on wall calendar & posted on the Canvas class website. (Absentees are strongly advised to log onto Canvas to see sheets of terms & artists' names whose work I projected in class, & to then research artists on their own. See referral to Art 21.org below.)

FACULTY & STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
To aid class lecture & discussion, faculty & students will maintain a collegial, respectful atmosphere in class.

All phones & other distracting noisemakers need to be silenced and put away during class. (There will always be a short break midway when you can use devices.) Please shut off all electronics: tablets, laptops, phones, etc. at the start of class to allow us all to better focus on the images in the darkened hall.

While there is no need to take notes (as I will post the information sheets I project each week on Canvas, & I will provide a Canvas review for you 2 weeks before each test) if you wish to take notes, you may do this longhand.

Students who attend regularly find taking the tests much less stressful, as they find they have a good working grasp of terms & concepts by test day, & do not need to depend on rote memorization.

For this once-a-week, 2-hour, lecture-based class, good, on-time attendance is essential, a basic requirement, & missing 2 or more classes may lower your final grade in the course. Plan to attend each week's entire session, arriving by 9:40 am. Expect I will start each class promptly. (You will have a break midway each Friday.) I will take attendance on random class days & will consider this aspect of your participation in determining your final grade.

CANVAS SITE (once TAs & I announce site is up and ready) may be accessed with your UNID through CIS on U homepage.
Please note I will not check Canvas for Incoming Messages, & will not use its Discussion or Chat functions.

You will find a folder of the weekly text sheets (of artists' names & terms and assigned shows etc) which I projected in each week's class posted on Canvas. (These sheets will include many more artists' names than you will need to recall for the tests. I will show likely test names in bold on these sheets.) Canvas site's docs updated each weekend.
(Approximate date) Sept. 22, Canvas Test One Review, with study guides containing artists' names, images, & vocabulary terms, will be posted for you to study for Test One. (Approximate date) Nov 18, Review for Test Two visible.
Print up study materials to avoid any last-minute network glitches. Block out time now to study for the 2 tests.
TEXT: None required. A recommended, moderate-priced resource you may find helpful: “50 Contemporary Artists You Should Know” Finger & Weidemann, published by Prestel. Available at University Bookstore & from on-line vendors.

Other Optional Resources: I encourage you to browse the art periodicals & books in the Dept's 3rd floor Owen Reading Room & to make use of resources at Marriott Library's Dumke Fine Arts area. Art 21.org, PBS’s web site, is a superb resource, with in-depth material on many of the artists I will show. (Art 21 has published books of each of several seasons.) I also will encourage you to attend Departmental, University, & off-campus special lectures scheduled during this semester. I will remind you of some of these in class (& of Recommended art shows, in addition to Required Exhibits discussed below.)

REQUIRED EXHIBITS: In addition to attending class lectures, on your own you will attend approximately 6 art exhibits I assign. (Some will be off-campus.) On Test One and Test Two, I will ask you to very briefly describe and respond to 1 or more of these assigned shows. Expect to be asked on tests to recall a given show & to give your critical response in 2 or 3 articulate sentences, Example: "While Sally Smith's carving skills may be impressive on a technical level, these 12 gigantic pink marble squirrels......" or “This group show of large-format digital photography of landscapes.....”

No, you will not have to describe in detail all the work in some diverse group show of a dozen artists, but yes, you should recall the media etc. or what held the group show together (& be able to offer your response to, your opinion of work in a one-or-two-person show. Articulate in your own words your judgments about the exhibit.

Exhibits will be announced later in class and gradually added to class calendar by Owen Reading Room on 3rd floor Art Bldg. and posted to Canvas. I will discuss all this further in class in September.

(Tentative) CALENDAR to start term (updated weekly in class & on Canvas)

8/26 Intro to course. Ist (shortened) lecture. The Body in Contemporary Art
8/31 Recommended, Arts Bash, 11 am- 2 pm, Library Plaza College event
9/2 Last day to add or drop. College Advisors introduced
9/16 Recommended, Gallery Stroll, 6-8 pm, 3rd Fridays of the months
9/23 Print up Test One Study Guide from Canvas (to avoid network glitches)
9/29 College Assembly, KH, Honored Alumni, 10:45-12:15
9/30 Questions re Test One addressed. ESL students see me ASAP to request to use a (new, unmarked, paper) dictionary on test
10/7 Test One. Bring sharpened pencils, eraser
10/9 Fall break begins (& runs through 10/16)
10/21  Required Phillips Gallery Show, “Love & Work” opens 6-9 pm
10/21  Last day to withdraw from class
11/11  Required Phillips Gallery Show ends today
11/18  Questions re Test Two addressed. Print up Canvas Study Guide now.
       ESL students need request use of dictionary before Test Day.
11/25  No class, Thanksgiving Holiday
12/2   Test Two. Bring sharpened pencils, eraser. (No Finals Week meeting)
12/19  Graded tests available w/ ID from Dept Office ART 161. Grades posted

ADA Statement
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disabilities Services, 162 Olpin Union Bldg., 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Wellness
Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc, can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 801 581-7776.

This syllabus is neither a contract nor a complete description of the semester's calendar of Required Shows, etc. Every effort has been made to be accurate on dates and other items on the syllabus. Some items may be adjusted during term. Any such information will be updated regularly in class announcements & on Canvas & on calendar wall outside Owen Reading Room/atrium on 3rd floor of the Art Building.