Art 2400-1, 1st Year Studio, Introduction to Visual Language (Course #1557)
Department of Art and Art History
Fall 2017
2 credits
Professor (Lecturer) Maureen O'Hara Ure
Teaching Assistants Kate Wingard & Josh Graham
Friday 9:40 am to 11:35 am
JTB 310 (Presidents’ Circle on lower campus, SW of the Park Building)

Office hour  Starting in September, Thursdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm, ART 366, for drop-ins. Otherwise, by appointment. If necessary to cancel an office hour, I will 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 on email or with staff in Dept Office, ART 161 for my mailbox or leave in envelope on my office door. (I will NOT see messages left on Canvas.) Be sure the U has email address you use on file. Check email frequently as this will be primary way Department & College will send you updated information on shows, opportunities etc.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
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 may regard as controversial, even offensive, material.
EVALUATION METHODS & GRADING POLICY
Approximately 2 weeks before Test One (Oct 6) & Test Two (Dec 1), TAs will post a thorough on-line review on Canvas. Site is 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 name correctly for maximum credit, then give 2 aspects you recall from the Canvas study site (or from lectures.)

See example here:
I project an image of Spiral Jetty, the early influential land art Robert Smithson created in 1970 in the Great Salt Lake. Students respond by writing his name, then list 2 (not several) aspects recalled from the Canvas study guide or from class lectures. Examples how 4 different students 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 lake

Students who actively participate in course, attending class consistently, who engage with the lectures and discussions, go to Required Exhibits & master 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 class.) Every year, however, some students attend sporadically & don't study for tests & find they need to repeat this course some later Fall term. Do not let poor attendance jeopardize your future at the University, your eligibility for loans etc.

It is unnecessary to take notes in lectures (& I suggest you instead devote energy to looking at slides & forming opinions about the work). I will give you the information on Canvas you need to excel in course, but of course you may take notes in longhand. (This will avoid distracting others with electronics in our darkened auditorium.)

TEST ONE & TEST TWO SCORES
I will use Test One, worth 100 points, in part to help you prepare to more successfully take Test Two. Test Two will be worth approximately 200 points. Expect the December 1st Test Two to revisit some items from first half of semester. Your score on Test Two plus attendance/participation will make up approximately two-thirds final grade for semester.
ATTENDANCE/ PUNCTUALITY POLICY  This class meets once a week for 2 hours. Good, on-time attendance and participation in weekly lectures will be 1 component of your final grade. 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, Oct 6 & Dec 1, you should drop & take course some future Fall term.

To underline the importance of attending lectures, I take roll several random Fridays. I may factor in your missing more than 2 classes (with or without an excuse) in determining your final grade. (Merely memorizing site information on 100 slides this semester is not the equivalent experience of attending 2 hours every week, seeing many hundreds of slides & hearing from several 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 may be modest variation in 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 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 we will screen are still alive & productive. Calendar for class will be posted outside the Art Building’s 3rd floor atrium & updated weekly. Upcoming test reviews, weekly topics, 2 test dates, Required Shows' dates, locations & other Calendar items will be projected weekly in class, then noted on wall calendar, and posted on the Canvas website after each class. (Absentees are advised to log onto Canvas to see weekly sheets of terms & names of artists whose work I projected in class and 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, tablets, laptops & other electronics need to be silenced, darkened & put away during class. Please shut off all such devices before class starts to allow all of us to better focus on the images in the darkened hall. There will always be a short break midway when you may use your devices.

While there is no need to take notes (as I will post the information sheets I project in class each week on Canvas, & will provide a thorough 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 vocabulary by Test Days & do not need to depend on rote memorization of terms & concepts.

For this once-a-week, 2-hour, lecture-based class, **good, on-time attendance is essential, a basic requirement. Missing classes may lower your final grade** in the course. Plan to attend each week's entire session, arriving by 9:40 a.m. Expect I will start each session promptly. I will take attendance on several random class days & will consider this aspect of your participation in determining your final grade. See Required Exhibits before they close to prepare to respond (in your own words) to questions on tests.

**CANVAS SITE** (once TAs 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**.

On Canvas each Friday evening, you will find an updated folder of the weekly text sheets (of artists' names & terms and assigned shows etc) I projected in class. (These sheets will include many more artists’ names than you need to recall for the tests. I will show likely Test Study Guide Review names in **bold**.)

(Approximate date) Sept. 22, Canvas Test One Review, a study guide containing artists' names, images, & vocabulary terms, posted for you to study for Test One Oct. 6; on approximately Nov. 17, Review for Test Two Dec. 1 will be visible on Canvas. Print up study guides ASAP to avoid any last-minute network glitches. Block out time now to study for the 2 tests.

**TEXT**: None required. Recommended: a 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 & other resources at Marriott Library's Dumke Fine Arts area. Art21.org, PBS's web site, is a superb resource, with in-depth material on many of the artists I will show. (Art21 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 7 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—likely not all—asigned shows. Expect to be asked to recall a given show & in your own words 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, this arrangement of 100 life-size marble squirrels......” or “This group show of several photographers' response to the Great Salt Lake......”

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 in class & gradually added to class calendar by 3rd floor Art Bldg atrium & posted on Canvas. I will discuss all this further in class in September.

**(Tentative) CALENDAR to start term** (updated weekly in class & on Canvas)
8/25 Intro to course. 1st (shortened) lecture, *The Body in Contemporary Art.*
8/26 UMFA on campus re-opens, including our first Required Shows. (More about these shows after the opening.) Dance Party 8 pm-midnight
8/30 Recommended, Arts Bash, 11 am-1 pm, Marriott plaza, College event
9/5 Required “Open Sky” show opens Gittins Gallery ART 6 pm. See by 9/22
9/13 Recommended, guest artist YAN Xing talks, 4:30 pm ART 158
9/15 Recommended, Gallery Stroll, 6-8 pm, 3rd Fridays of the months
9/22 Print up Test One Study Guide from Canvas (to avoid network glitches)
9/27 College Assembly, Kingsbury Hall, Honored Alumni, 12 pm
9/29 Questions re Test One addressed. ESL students see me to request to use (new, unmarked, paper) dictionary on test
10/6 **Test One.** Bring sharpened pencils, eraser
10/7 Fall break begins (& runs through 10/15)
11/17 Questions re Test Two addressed. Print up Canvas Study Guide
11/24 No class, Thanksgiving
12/1 **Test Two.** Bring sharpened pencils, eraser. (No Finals Week meeting)
12/18 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.