This course will investigate different manifestations of the U.S/Mexico border in the visual arts. Examining different perspectives through a variety of media, this class will complicate and expand the more one-dimensional treatment of the border in mass media as a linear and fixed entity. The course will begin by introducing relevant texts concerning the political, social and cultural conditions surrounding the border region. The class will then focus on constructions of the border in film and video art, followed by an investigation of the politics of display and the border as theme in contemporary art exhibits. Throughout the class we will explore how representations of the border correspond to shifting social, political and economic circumstances as well as discourses surrounding multiculturalism and globalization. Students should pay close attention to how different media and exhibition formats shape our perceptions of the border. The aim of this course is not only to expose students to different visual manifestations of the border but also to instill a critical awareness of how visual culture functions to create the varying narratives. Students will then apply what they learn by working on an exhibition of Border Visual Culture for the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art. Students will be involved in every step of organizing the exhibit, In Motion-Borders and Migrations.

This class is open to all majors and does not require prior coursework in Art History, although ARTH 2500 is recommended.