COURSE SYLLABUS

ART 1010: Introduction to Visual Arts

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**Required Textbook**

The primary text is *Gilbert's Living with Art*, 10th edition, by Mark Getlein, copyright 2013, published by McGraw Hill. ISBN# 978-0-07-337925-8. The CD-ROM is not required for this course. Older editions are also acceptable, though reading assignment page numbers may be off, but this will still be workable. The text is also on reserve at the Marriot Library.

**Course Description**

**Prerequisites:** None

ART 1010-091: Introduction to Visual Art is an online course.

This 3 credit course fulfills a Fine Arts Foundation requirement and is cross-listed as UGS 1010.

This course meets the General Education and Bachelor’s Degree Requirements. The General Education learning outcomes for this class are Critical Thinking, Written Communication, and Teamwork.

This is a beginning-level course that focuses on establishing an understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. Key components of coursework include a formal understanding of artworks, understanding art within a cultural context, and exploring the creative process. This course investigates these areas and discusses art as a chronological history. The content is designed to be cross-cultural, gender-conscious, and discipline-correlated, meaning that visual art is introduced to include filmmaking, digital imagery and animation, architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing, graphic design, photography, and the applied arts. The creative process, aesthetics, composition and history draw upon all of these diverse interests.
Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you will have a fundamental understanding of the visual arts, including the ability to:

- Identify and explain the function of visual elements and principles of design in works of art.
- Discuss a wide range of materials, processes and art practices and the formats common to each.
- Understand the function of art within the context of diverse cultures.
- Identify the connections between historical and contemporary art practices.

You will gain insight about the creative process and can look forward to exploring artworks from many historical periods and diverse cultures. You will also investigate the premises behind contemporary artworks and new horizons in the field of visual arts.

Course Requirements

The course work for the semester is divided into 14 lecture units identified as assignments.

Web Lessons

Each week's assignment requires careful review of:

- Specific readings from the textbook.
- An online web lesson-overview that provides a context for assigned readings and images.
- Information at a list of different web sites (links provided in each assignment). Visiting these sites will expand upon information in the textbook. At times you will be required to use these sites to research information for your discussion assignments. The sites will also allow you to view representations of an extraordinary amount of contemporary and historical artwork.

Discussion Participation

At the end of each of the 14 assignments a related topic(s) will be posted as an online discussion assignment. For discussion participation, the students in the class will be divided into three sections. Each student is required to respond to his or her group's topic question (initial response) as well as reviewing posted responses of other members of the class, for a title of five posts per assignment. Please see the detailed instructions on the Guidelines page of the course website. Discussion responses must occur by the deadline posted at the top of each discussion assignment page.
Papers

In addition, this course requires the completion of one midterm paper and one final paper with a minimum of five pages for each. The papers are to be submitted electronically through email as an attached Microsoft Word document, pdf, or a Simple Text document: **Do not send WordPerfect documents**, as I am unable to open them. Successful completion of this course requires that these papers be turned in.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The primary teaching approach in this course is collaborative learning. We will all work together to ensure that our online discussions maintain a respect for differences of opinions and sensitivity to the needs, opinions, and circumstances of our peers. Productive collaboration requires effective individual preparation of the reading and viewing assignments. You will also have the opportunity to demonstrate your individual mastery of the material through the two individual papers mentioned above.

Grading

Online group discussion participation is weighted as 55% of final grade (25 points each week). You will be evaluated on how regularly and completely you participate, the relevance of your comments, accuracy of the information you include, and how much insight your comments add to the discussion (not repeating ideas and information already posted by others). Errors in spelling and grammar that detract from the clarity of your communication may also affect your discussion grade.

The mid-term paper and final paper together are 45% of the final grade (100 points each). The papers will be evaluated for thoughtfulness, thoroughness of your observations, the specificity of your examples, and the accuracy and organization of information. These papers should be carefully proofread for correct spelling, usage, and grammar. Paper due dates are indicated on the assignment page. Papers submitted past the due date will have 4 points per day deducted, with a maximum of 24 points deducted per paper. You must turn in both these papers to complete the course successfully.
Student Responsibilities

This class can be "attended" from anywhere there is an Internet connection. All course work will be submitted electronically. Note that technical or equipment failures will not excuse late assignments. You are responsible for:

- Maintaining access to an Internet browser. A Java and java script-enabled browser are required for the maximum benefit from your online course.
- Establishing a private email address (not shared with parents or others) at which you can receive communications from me regarding your coursework and grades. Make sure that you update your student profile on CIS to include this address, and make a habit of checking your email regularly.
- Backing up your assignment files. I recommend writing all your discussion responses offline and then pasting on the discussion board. For your term papers, be sure to keep two copies in different locations (such as flash drive and hard drive) so that if you lose work you are not starting over from the beginning.
- Maintaining your computer equipment properly, and having an alternate plan should your computer fail, especially if you are one who often finds yourself working at the last minute before the assignment deadline.

Faculty Responsibilities

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the online classroom setting, according to the student code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code specifies prescribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating, plagiarism, and/or collusion. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with written warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within these environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically:

- Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.
- Off-color language and photos are never appropriate.
- Using angry or abusive language is called “flaming,” is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code.
- Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points!!!!!! and question marks??????
Course e-mails, e-journals, and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and subject to GRAMA regulations and the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.

If You Have a Disability and Need Accommodation...

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

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.