ART 4980-1 Spring 2016
Senior Seminar
3 hours credit
Pre-requisite: Junior or Senior studio major. Fulfills Special Topics for Painting & Drawing emphasis.

Thursdays, 4:35- 7:30 pm, Marriott Library 1725 (or as announced)
Maureen O’Hara Ure
Assistant Professor (Lecturer)
Office: ART 366
Office hour: Mon 4:45-5:45 for drop-ins. Otherwise, By Appointment
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Course Description: Senior Seminar material will be divided between two areas: creative process in the visual arts, & day-to-day professional concerns of the studio artist. Extensive readings, class discussions, writing exercises, & guest presenters will address a wide range of topics.

Course Objectives: To prepare for life after graduation. (Topics will touch on art-related jobs & nuts and bolts of the independent studio practice, gallery and other exhibition opportunities, small business concerns e.g. contracts & copyright, taxes, etc.) To improve ability to think and to write clearly. (One emphasis of Seminar: professional writing required in this field.) To investigate the option of graduate study, discussing strategies for choosing an appropriate program, & to demystify the application process.

Teaching & Learning Methods: Seminar will require excellent, on-time attendance, as participation will be an important component of your grade in course. If you have are not available during the entire Thursday 4:35 to 7:35 weekly time slot, you will need to drop the course. Arrive each session well-prepared to discuss the assigned readings, having marked any passages of interest in the texts, as you will be asked to contribute to discussions. Expect me to call on you, to not just rely on volunteers. Some weeks I will start off having you respond briefly to a written questionnaire on assigned reading(s) & I will use those sheets (in grading you in April) as evidence of your out-of-class preparation & overall engagement with course content.
Readings, writing exercises, & seeing assigned exhibits will require an average of 4 or more hours/ week outside class throughout term to PASS course. Those who excel typically spend more than 6 hours/ week.
There will be frequent guests.
Students will maintain a folder for this class, saving all handouts, drafts of your statements, etc. Bring this folder each week in case the discussion returns to a previous reading.
Each time you hand in a new (typed) draft, staple it atop any previous graded ones which carry my comments or peers’ comments. DEADLINES are deadlines. Late work will neither receive edits nor full credit, but skipping any draft will undoubtedly lower your final grade in course. If a student is absent, written assignments are still due (emailed to me in doc or docx format) at regular class time, & are then to be handed in later as hard copy.

To participate fully in this course, be sure the U has your preferred email address. Email me from that address before next Seminar, 1/21, putting SR SEMINAR in the subject line. (If not obvious from address, identify yourself in the body of email.) Check email frequently, as I will forward notices of opportunities as I receive them, and will answer queries about assignments etc. through email. Some docs will be too complex to be read on small screens.

Recommended Options: I will identify some events in calendar that are particularly worthy of your attention. I may use 1 such event to compensate for 1 absence (or other issue) in grading you at end of the semester. Some early Recommended Options include:

1. UMFA film on early land art/ earthworks, free, Sat 1/15, 7 pm
2. Suzi Parks, playwright on her process, Tanner Series, free, but tkts required. See Kingsbury Hall on line, Weds 2/24, 6-8 pm

Participation/ Attendance
Note that excellent participation is required of anyone who aspires to earn an A or B in course. I will conduct class as I would a graduate-level seminar. All assignments must be handed in on time in order to receive full credit. Course is designed for the motivated, mature A or B student, & may be an inappropriate choice at this time for some students.

Class will start promptly at 4:35 pm. Arrive prepared with assigned readings, ready to participate in discussion. Absentees need to consult class calendar, posted outside Owen Reading Room (as well as Canvas) & not get further.

Faculty & Student Responsibilities
To provide the best climate for learning, & to facilitate discussion, professor & students will maintain a respectful, professional classroom environment. Kindly turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during Seminar. (Exception: e-readers in lieu of paper texts.)
(Tentative) Calendar to begin semester

Jan 14   Intro to course. Handout, The Artist’s Statement

Jan 15   Gallery Stroll, recommended. 3rd Fris./mo. art venues open late

Jan 21   Discussion of Lamott, Bird by Bird, Intro through p.63 & p.85-94. Continue for next week reading Lamott to p 150. Deadline to email me w/ subject line: SR SEMINAR

Jan 28   Guest, Jorge Rojas. Lamott through p144 discussed. See MFA Interim Show by 2/11 & prepare to respond to not only work but presentation: lighting, titles, placement etc. Handout, Clock-Your-Week (exercise which starts 1/29). Finish Lamott for next week. Procure Art and Fear. Start browsing through Elements of Style

Feb 4    Clock-Your-Week discussed. Art and Fear to p 36 for next week

Feb 5    UMoCA shows all open. See shows by 3/10

Feb 11   1st draft artist's statement due. Response to Gittins MFA show. Peer review exercise defined. Art and Fear to p 78 for next wk

Feb 18   Change of venue to Owen Reading Rm. Guest, Octavio Campos. Influences Handout to prepare for next wk. Art and Fear to end, and for Why Art Cannot Be Taught to p 39 for next wk

Feb 25   Influences discussed. Tachinni handout. Why Artt to p 90 for next wk

Mar 3    Packet, 2nd draft statement due, stapled atop ones with comments

Mar 10   Meyers Briggs packet due

Mar 24   Resume Handout. Consult Reading Room file and other resources

Mar 31   Packet, 3rd draft statement due, stapled atop others with comments

Guest, Lincoln Ure, on personality theories

Apr 7    Resume due. 7 Days... to p 217 for next wk

Apr 14   7 Days... to end for next wk

Apr 21   Last class, change of venue. (Extra credit reworked resume, stapled atop one with my comments due, may help compensate for absence, etc.)
CLASS CALENDAR, posted outside Owen Reading Room, 3rd floor ART, updated frequently. (Note: I will post copies of course handouts, my weekly notes etc. on Canvas each weekend.)

Course fees: $15. Used primarily for lecture supplies, as well as to cover some costs for guests, including Meyers Briggs packets.

Required Texts
University Bookstore received this list. I also recommend you try on-line sources, including library digital versions, if available (& if you can easily bookmark and retrieve passages for discussion.) Bring assigned text(s) to Seminar on days appointed.

A. Strunk and White, Elements of Style, any edition, but I recommend the illustrated Kalman version.

B. Bird by Bird, any edition ok
Lamott, Anchor, NYC

C. Seven Days in the Art World
Thornton, Norton

D. Art and Fear
Bayles and Orland

E. Why Art Cannot Be Taught
Elkins, University of Illinois

Other Assigned Material
I may put 2 assigned readings on Marriott Library’s Electronic Reserve. Access these with your Unid through CIS.

Required Exhibits to Begin Term. Call or go on-line to find hours/days open
1. Gittins Gallery, MFA Interim Show open 1/28; see before 2/11
2. UMoCA all shows, including Dave Brothers 2/5; see before 3/10

Additional Requirements
All Seminar students will enter at least 1 juried show OR apply for an internship in an arts field by 4/21. In addition, all May or Dec ’16 graduates will participate in (enter; help organize) the BFA Show. I will award extra points for additional shows/ internships applied for.
**Evaluation methods & criteria**
I will note your attendance, and the level of your preparation for & participation each week. I will consider how you performed in brief written responses to readings or other assigned discussion topics, and factor that evidence of your overall preparation into your final grade. In evaluating drafts of your artist’s statement or other written assignments I will use a check/ check-plus system grading, then move to a percentage grade (eg 90%) for your final artist’s statement (which I will expect to be radically different from your 1st draft.) Presuming all work has been completed, and my records show excellent on-time attendance and participation in course, grade on your final draft will be a major component making up your final grade in course. I will accept 1 Extra Credit Recommended Option (see above) to compensate for 1 absence or for some other issue at grade time.

A= Excellent. Superior written work, preparation, participation
B= Good. Written work much improved. Good participation & grasp of course content
C=Fair. Problems w/ preparation/ participation/ written work etc. Attendance likely an issue
D=Poor, not college-level work. Inadequate engagement with course for Dept credit.
E=No University credit warranted.

**ADA Statement:** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services & 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 & 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.

**Wellness Statement**
Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc, can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed & thrive. For helpful resources, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 801 581-7776

**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).

**NOTE**: Any items on this syllabus may be amended by announcement in class & on Seminar calendar 3rd floor ART.