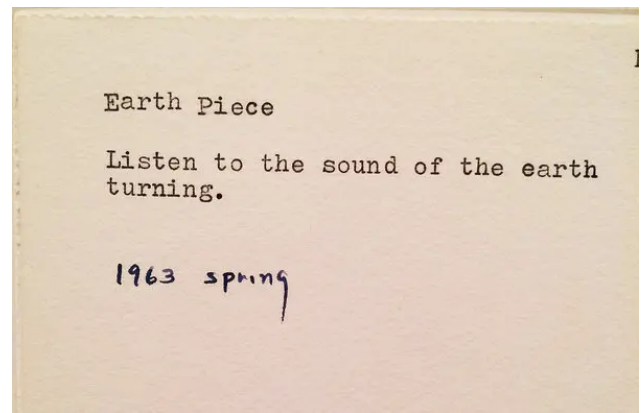


AHST 2331-001 (20019)
Understanding Art:
The History of Experimental Art and Architecture
Spring 2026
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
University of Texas at Dallas
Arts & Humanities
Tuesdays-Thursdays 1:00-2:15
Class Location: FN 2.214
Office Hours: By appointment
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TA: George Morgan
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Yoko Ono, "Earth Piece," from *Grapefruit*, 1963

Description: This class explores experimental artists and architects c. 1900-present. It focuses on how they used new and untried political, scientific, and technological systems, cutting-edge and atypical materials, and unparalleled philosophical frameworks to create unique paradigms of art and architecture. In this spirit, the course weaves site visits, reading, writing, student presentations, lectures by the professor, and in-class open-note quizzes to make knowledge a matter of both quiet, solitary concentration and hands-on communal *praxis*.

Requirements: Students are required to attend all classes, complete all reading prior to class, prepare for quizzes, and arrive in class with an open mind and fathomless curiosity.

Goals:

- Improve expository writing skills.
- Improve public speaking skills.
- Learn and hone research skills.
- Hone critical thinking skills.
- Gain a keen understanding of experimental and avant-garde art and architecture, c. 1900-present.
- Nourish mind-body through free, non-reductive exploration of significant historical ideas in art and architecture.

Assignments: There are two primary assignments in the class: student presentations, or “teachback,” and quizzes.

- Teachback – I teach! You teach! We all teach! [2 x 25% = 50%] Polymathic intermedia artist and engineer Gordon Pask coined the word “teachback” fifty years ago to identify the generative circular feedback between teachers and students that constitutes learning on both sides. Pask argued that teaching must have a component of learning and, likewise, learning of teaching. In this class teachback identifies short presentations made by students based on short essays summarizing the reading assignment. The basic writing prompt each week is: **What did you like best about the reading assignment? Your essay should focus on the reading assignment and any one related work of art/architecture.** Here are the details:
 - Professor posts teachback schedule with the names of students assigned two presentations across the semester at eLearning.
 - Presentations are made up two things: the essay and a work of art or architecture.
 - Students write short essays summarizing the reading and connecting the chosen work of art or architecture to it.
 - Students read their essays in front the class while intermittently engaging a projected work of art or architecture during teachback in class.
 - This is followed by 1-2 questions from the teacher and/or classmates.
 - Students email professor image by midnight the night before their teachback presentation.

- Professor creates a powerpoint presentation each week with images of works of art chosen by students.
 - Essays should:
 - Be 550-600 words
 - Double-spaced
 - Written by the student **and not AI**
 - Include right-hand justified heading with name of the student, number/name of course, and date
- Quizzes [2 x 25% = 50%] There are two open-note quizzes in the class. Each requires students to hand write a short essay in class in response to a general question. The professor provides quizzes on which students write essays. Students must print, bring to class their research notes, and cite them by author, title, and date of each in a specific space on the quiz. Research notes include up to three articles about or related to the chosen work of art or architecture. Course reading can be one source. The quizzes require students to perform with analogue tools. There is no engagement with personal screens and/or electronic devices. Phones and computers must be put away. **You may not use AI in any fashion.**
 - Quiz 1 Thursday, February 26: Choose one work of art from either *Groundbreakers: Postwar Japanese and Korean Art*, an exhibition at the Crow Museum of Art on campus, or *Organic Worlds: Symbiogenesis in Art*, an exhibition at SP/N Gallery also on campus. Make and print an image of the work and include it with your quiz. Be prepared to identify:
 - The artist, title of the work, date it was made, and its materials.
 - Its significance according to context, that is:
 - how it relates to the greater exhibition ideas, and
 - how it relates to the moment in which it was made.
 - Quiz 2 Thursday, May 7: Choose your favorite work of architecture from the reading, print an image of it, and identify:
 - The architect, the date it was built, and its location.
 - Its significance according to greater historical context and our contemporary moment.

Attendance Policy:

- Students are required to attend each class.
- Students are excused for classes missed due to illness with a doctor’s note.
- Students who miss numerous classes (more than four) are advised to withdraw.
- Students may miss two unexcused classes without penalty after which each absence results in the lowering of the final grade by a third. So, for example, a B+ becomes a B with the third unexcused absence and a B- with the fourth.

Readings: All readings are located at an eReserve library portal in eLearning.

Grades: No grades are posted at eLearning. Students retrieve graded teachback essays and quizzes in class.

▪ Teachback essay and presentation 1	25%
▪ Teachback essay and presentation 2	25%
▪ Quiz 1	25%
▪ Quiz 2	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Revised Schedule:

Introduction

Tuesday, January 20

Introduction to Main Ideas and Syllabus

Module 1

Reading Assignment:

Experimentalism and the Avant-Garde

Delphine Bière, et. al., "Experiments and Avant-Gardes in Contemporary History (1900-2000)," *The European Experience: A Multi-Perspective History of Modern Europe, 1500-2000* (2023) 841-852.

Thursday, January 22

Friday, January 30

Tuesday, February 3

Site Visit: Crow Museum of Asian Art, UTD Campus

Video Lecture Link Posted

Teachback

Module 2

Reading Assignment:

Dada

Stephanie Chadwick, "Introduction to Dada," *Kahn Academy*, <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/dada-and-surrealism/dada2/a/introduction-to-dada>

Monday, February 2

Thursday, February 5

Video Lecture Link Posted

Teachback

Module 3

Reading Assignment:

Art, Nature, and Technology: Bioart

1.) Charissa N. Terranova, "Bioart and *Bildung*," *Journal of Microbiological Education* (Dec. 2016).

2.) Press Release for *Organic Worlds: Symbiogenesis in Art* at SP/N Gallery, UT Dallas, Curated by Charissa N. Terranova

Tuesday, February 10

Thursday, February 12

Site Visit: Class meets at *Organic Worlds* at SP/N Gallery, UTD Campus

Teachback: Class meets at SP/N Gallery, UTD Campus (Choose a work from the exhibition, *Organic Worlds*)

No Class/CAA

Tuesday, February 17

Thursday, February 19

Dr. Terranova Attends Annual Conference of College Art Association

Dr. Terranova Attends Annual Conference of College Art Association

Module 3

Tuesday, February 24

Art, Nature, and Technology: Bioart (cont'd)

Lecture

Quiz

Thursday, February 26

In-Class Open-note Quiz #1

Module 4

Reading Assignment:

Conceptual Art and The Archival Turn

Sara Callahan, "When the Dust Has Settled: What Was the Archival Turn, and Is It Still Turning?" *Art Journal* (Spring 2024) 74-88.

Tuesday, March 3

Thursday, March 5

Tuesday, March 10

Site Visit: Main Library on Campus

Teachback

Lecture

Module 5

Reading Assignment:

Earth Works

Leigh Arnold, "Exceeding the Field of Vision," in *Groundswell: Women of Land Art* (New York: DelMonico Books, 2023) 13-25.

Thursday, March 12

Teachback

No Class/Spring Break

Tuesday, March 17

Thursday, March 19

No Class Spring Break

No Class Spring Break

Module 5

Tuesday, March 24

Earth Works (cont'd)

Lecture

Module 6

Reading Assignment:

Thursday, March 26
Tuesday, March 31**Russian Constructivism and Vkhutemas (Pronounced f-KHOO-the-mahss)**
1.) Jeanne Willette, "Constructivism and the Avant-Garde," *Art History Unstuffed* (2019) <https://arthistoryunstuffed.com/constructivism-and-the-avant-garde/>
2.) Anonymous, "Vkhutemas," <https://monoskop.org/VKhUTEMAS>.Teachback
Lecture**Module 7**

Reading Assignment:

Thursday, April 2
Tuesday, April 7
Thursday, April 9**Modern Architecture 1: The Bauhaus**Charles Cramer and Kim Grant, "The Bauhaus, An Introduction," *Kahn Academy*, <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/german-art-between-the-wars/bauhaus/a/the-bauhaus-an-introduction>Site Visit: Campus Architecture Tour: Meet in Classroom
Teachback
Lecture**Module 8**

Reading Assignment:

Tuesday, April 14
Thursday, April 16
Tuesday, April 21**Modern Architecture 2: Brutalism**B.M. Boyle, "Brutalism," Sennott R.S. *Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Architecture*, Vol.1 (A-F). (Dearborn: Fitzroy, 2004) <https://architecture-history.org/schools/BRUTALISM.html>.Site Visit: Class meets at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St, Dallas, TX 75201
Teachback
Lecture**Module 9**

Reading Assignment:

Thursday, April 23
Tuesday, April 28**Neo-Avant-Garde Architecture: Archigram, Ant Farm, Superstudio**Jason Sayer, "Reimagining the Avant-Garde Re-examines the Field," *The Architect's Newspaper* (Dec. 2019).Teachback
Lecture**Module 10**

Reading Assignment:

Thursday, April 30
Tuesday, May 5**Fluxus**Cristiana Lombardo, "What Was Fluxus" (May 2023), *PBS.org*, <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/what-was-fluxus/27616/>.Teachback
Lecture**Quiz**

Thursday, May 7

In-Class Open-Note Quiz #2