Welcome to Introduction to the Fine Arts! You are enrolled in GFA 101, Introduction to the Fine Arts, which is brought to you by the University of South Dakota and the Electronic University Consortium of South Dakota.

My name is Carol Cook Geu (pronounced “gooey”). I am an instructor in the Art Department at The University of South Dakota. I grew up in a small, rural community in southeast Nebraska and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with majors in painting and art history and a minor in business administration. I received a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting (the highest academic degree awarded in performance and studio arts) from The University of South Dakota. I continue to be a student of art history, art criticism, and philosophy. During my teaching career I have taught History of World Art, Art Appreciation, American Art History, Introduction to the Fine Arts, Elements and Principles of Design, Issues in Contemporary Art, and Humanities through the Arts. I also offer Art Appreciation, Introduction to the Fine Arts, Art Education: K-8 Art Methods, Native American Art History, History of World Art I and II, History of Women’s Art, 20th Century Art History, and American Art History as correspondence courses through Continuing Education.

Before moving to South Dakota I worked as a Graphic Designer for newspapers, advertising agencies, and educational institutions in Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. I also had the pleasure of serving as an intern for the curator of works on paper at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. In my free time I enjoy reading, gardening, and spending time with my family.

The primary advantage in taking a course online is convenience. You don’t have to travel to campus and can basically work on your own schedule. The major disadvantage is loss of face-to-face interaction, which makes it harder for us to connect with each other. Other disadvantages are that you have fewer opportunities to discuss course content with your classmates and it is easy to “let things slide” since you aren’t accountable as often. My challenge has been to design a course that balances your preference to work independently and our need to form a learning community that allows you to stay on task and learn the content of the course.

To get started in the course, you need to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the USD student portal, http://my.usd.edu or directly via https://d2l.sdbor.edu The course should be listed under “My Courses.” Note: You will be able to access the course one month before its official start date. The Course Homepage will coordinate your work in this course. You should immediately read the Syllabus, Course Description, and Course Introduction. When you finish reading these documents you will have a clear picture of how to operate in the course. You may want to print these documents and keep them handy.

You should familiarize yourself with the various tools that will be used during the course:

**Content:** where course materials are located

**Assessments:** where you will access your Grades and Quizzes (exams).
Communications: where you access the weekly Discussions
Resources: where you will find the Classlist (which you can use to contact me via D2L email)
Course Mail: located at the very top right side of the course page in the gray bar. Course Mail will be used by me for all official course correspondence. When you have unread Course Mail, a red badge will appear on the email icon.

For information about the university’s technical, academic, and student support services, as well as how to take advantage of these services, please refer to the Online Student Handbook at http://www.usd.edu/~media/files/usb-online/online-orientation-guide.ashx This document also contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, registration information, and other university services and policies.

You should also complete the Online Learning Readiness Check from Continuing Education found at https://www.pychdata.com/s.asp?SID=146780&source=ecl If you have technology questions and/or problems you should go to http://www.usd.edu/technology/ There you will find links to FAQs and email and telephone contact information so that your questions/problems can be resolved as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to resolve any issues with access to the course so that you can begin to participate in the course on the first day of the semester.

I will have “Virtual Office Hours” on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. I understand that you will have questions at times other than these but in order to keep my professional life in order I must have a designated time to concentrate on answering your questions. I will not be checking into the Desire2Learn (D2L) course and responding to you on a daily basis. That may seem difficult to you because the immediacy of the Internet makes all of us expect immediate turn-around times. All emails will be responded to within 48 hours Monday through Friday.

Students are required to start posting to the discussion questions, including introducing themselves in the Atelier, within the first week of the course. This is the only way that I can determine if you are “attending” class or not. Any student who has not posted to the discussion question at least once by Monday, August 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. will be dropped from the course by the instructor.

You can order your textbook from Barnes and Noble at USD by email at bn@usd.edu or telephone at 605.677.6291. The textbook for this course is:
The required textbook for this course is:
ISBN-10: 0205858228
Cost ≈ $37-$150

It is my goal to help you learn about the Humanities and the cultures within which they are produced. Of course, it is up to you to get the most out of this learning experience. I look forward to reading your discussion postings and seeing your knowledge of this subject matter
grow. If you have any questions you may email me through D2L. Good luck in your journey to a better understanding of the arts!

Carol Cook Geu
The University of South Dakota