Welcome to American Indian Art History! You are enrolled in AIS/ARTH 251, American Indian Art History, 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 of art in the Art Department at The University of South Dakota. I was born and raised in southeast Nebraska. I 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, 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/usd-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.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=146780&source=ec1 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 Friday, May 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. will be dropped from the course by the instructor.

Exams must be taken in the presence of an approved proctor.

Students living in Vermillion:
  Must test at the Vermillion Testing Center
  Do not need to turn in a proctor form
  Must make an appointment at least one business day in advance

Students testing at the Pierre, Rapid City, or Sioux Falls Testing Centers:
  Do not need to turn in a proctor form but must email us to let us know where they are testing

Students testing anywhere else
  Must turn in a proctor form at least one week before the exam opens
Students are encouraged to list multiple classes on one proctor form. If a student has multiple proctors, they must fill out one form for each proctor. Proctors can be a professional testing center, librarian, full time instructor at a university or college, high school principal or superintendent, full time high school teacher, high school guidance counselors, or full time member of the clergy. For students in the armed forces, education officers or an officer of a higher rank are also permissible. We cannot approve HR representatives or secretaries.

Students must contact the site nearest you to schedule your exams 24 hours in advance. Each site offers a professionally managed testing environment and each site (except the Capital University Center) offers extended hours.

Pierre Area: Capital University Center 605-773-2160  
Rapid City Area: University Center 605-718-4193  
Sioux Falls Area: University Center 866-220-7085 or 605-367-5989  
Vermillion Area: Continuing Education at USD 800-233-7937 or 605-677-6240

The proctor form can be found on the left side of the course home page or under Content in D2L. Fill out this form and send it to Continuing Education at the address provided. Students are required to submit their proctor form by Friday, May 18, 2018. New proctor forms must be submitted each semester. If the proctor form is not returned by Friday, May 18, 2018, the student will not be able to take the required exams.

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:


It is my goal to help you understand the diversity and richness of American Indian art from the pre-contact period to present day. I look forward to reading your assignments and participating in your discussions as you learn about the history of American Indian art. Of course, it is up to you to get the most out of this learning experience. If you have any questions you may email me through D2L. Good luck in your journey into “the art of seeing.”

Carol Cook Geu  
The University of South Dakota