ARTh 4725: Contemporary Land, Earth, and Ecological Art

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Fall 2017

Course Description
This course examines the history of contemporary Land, Earth, and Ecological Art from Earthworks created in the late 1960s and early 1970s to today’s Ecological Art movement. We will analyze the relationship between Environmental Art and theories of sculpture, public space, landscape, locational identity, community, ecology, and sustainability. In addition, we will consider the emergence of the Anthropocene (Earth’s current geological time, defined by the impact of human presence) and its relation to artistic production. What are the ethical and moral questions artists pose in the contemporary period regarding human impact, changing climates, and a rapidly degrading landscape?

Actions Taken to Implement Course
- ARTH 4725 is in the USU Course Catalogue, yet it has never been offered to the students
- Fall 2016 submitted paperwork to change the course title and description
- Completely overhauled the proposed syllabus to reflect contemporary dialogues regarding art, ecology, sustainability, and the Anthropocene
- Will offer course in fall 2017, to correspond with USU’s Year of the Arts programming (2017 – 2018)

Student Outcomes and Impacts
Students in ARTH 4725 will:
- Engage theoretically and physically with Environmental Art, and study its political, social, and cultural impact
- Understand how location/history/culture/politics/material affect artistic production
- Develop environmental awareness on local, national, and global levels
- Create community awareness (on campus and beyond) of the interaction between art, sustainability, and the environment
- Move outside of the “studio silo” to converse and create across disciplines
- Make visible the inherent interconnectedness of the arts and absolutely everything else