

ART 6897-Professional Practices in the Visual Arts

School of Art + Art History- University of Florida

Spring 2024| 3 credits

Monday 6:15 PM -9:10 PM

Classroom: FAC 0102



torkwase dyson

Instructor: Antoine Williams (he/him)

Email: awilliams25@ufl.edu

Office: FAD 215

Regular/virtual office hours: MW 11:30am-12:00pm or (by appointment)

Important Dates:

Last day to withdraw

MLK (no class)

Spring Break (no class)

Last Day of class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will address post graduate school professional development. We will explore strategies on how emerging artists navigate shifting power dynamics within the contemporary art landscape, how to talk and write about your creative work, and consider various paths to an equitable sustainable artistic life. Opportunities for emerging artists including grants, residencies, shows, jobs, and freelance work will be examined and discussed. We will explore what being a professional artist means in the 21st century.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will consist of lectures, readings, discussions, critiques and individual presentations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- *Conceptualize what living and working as an artist can look like*
- *Develop career goals*
- *Explore equitable art world practices*
- *Meet artists, curators, and arts professionals*
- *Build your online presence*
- *Conceptualize the why and how of one's individual creative practice*
- *Build financial and practical literacy*

This course will be divided into 3 major sections:

Career Strategic Planning

- *Career goals*
- *Action Plan*

Representation & promotion

- *Artist statement*
- *Artist Talk*
- *Bio*
- *CV*
- *Documenting/Cataloging work*
- *Website/social media presence*

Professional Opportunities

- *Proposal & Budget writing*
- *Exhibitions*
- *Residencies*
- *Grants*
- *Teaching jobs*

EVALUATION / GRADING

20% 2-5 year strategic plan

20% Application Packet

- Artist statement
- Bio
- CV

15% Artist Talk

15% Work Catalog

10% Website

10% Proposal & Budget

10% Professional Opportunities Application

LETTER GRADE AND CORRESPONDING GRADE POINTS

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0	0

Project grades in this course are considered in the following way:

A.....94-100

Exceptional work; all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about

other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in course content.

A-.....90-93

Well-presented, superior work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.

B+.....87-89

Very good work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed, minor changes could be considered and executed to bring the piece together. Studio practice was exceptional.

B.....84-86

Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the Project was commendable.

B-.....80-83

Good work: most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was adequate.

C+.....77-79

Slightly above average work: most of the criteria of the assignment were met. The work is not yet a unified whole or cohesive statement, yet effort was made. Studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

C.....74-76

Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation. Studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

C-.....70-73

Slightly below average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were minimally met, but there is much room for developing assignment's concepts further. The level of craft and breadth and depth of idea development needs improvement. There is some evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking.

D+.....67-69

Below average work: an attempt to solve the problem was made, but there is much room for improving skills and developing concepts further. The criteria of the assignment are barely met. Basic craftsmanship skills have been neglected and there is a lack of breadth and depth of idea development. There is minimal

evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity are lacking.

D.....64-66

Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard.

D-.....60-63

Unacceptable work and effort: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard.

E.....below 60

Unacceptable work and effort: the work submitted is inadequate; the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. Work is substandard or the assignment was not submitted.

For more information:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

LATE WORK

Assignments are to be submitted on the date due in the delivery mode specified; late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late. Projects will not be accepted after five days past the due date.

**Please note that a C- or below is not an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA (or C) is required, i.e., any course in the major.*

** All grades are tabulated based on your assignment numerical grade (which is ultimately figured into a percentage) and your participation. You must speak with your instructor within one week of receiving a grade in order to dispute an assignment grade.*

HONOR CODE

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [Honor Code Process](#)

The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

COURSE TEXT

- *9.5 Theses on Art & Class, Ben Davis, Haymarket Books*
- *The Undercommons: Figurative Planning and Black Study, Stefano Harney & Fred Moten, Duke University Press.*

DISCUSSION & PARTICIPATION

The class dynamic depends on your energy, initiative, attitude, productivity, and willingness to get involved in group discussion and critiques. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and includes being present and engaged in all meetings as well as the depth of your feedback.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

We will communicate through a variety of methods in this course. With all forms of communication you are expected to engage your classmates/colleagues and I in a respectful and professional manner. Any type of unwanted or harassing communication will not be tolerated. This course will have an accompanied Canvas page which will house assignments, grades, the daily schedule and other resources. Therefore, you are expected to check Canvas and your school email on a regular basis. You are responsible for anything posted to Canvas or sent via email.

Modes of communication in this course:

- *Canvas*
- *UF Email*
- *Google Suite*
- *Zoom*

Learn about accessibility features/guidelines for each:

[Canvas](#)

[Zoom](#)

[Microsoft Outlook](#)

[Google](#)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in class is necessary to achieve the course objectives. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to arrive on time, stay for the entirety of class and be prepared to participate in all activities. You will be considered tardy if you arrive after class start time. Three late arrivals or early self-dismissals will count as an absence. An unexcused absence does not constitute an extension of an assignment. If you show up to class unprepared, you may be asked to leave, which will count as an unexcused absence.

Attendance is your responsibility. You get three unexcused absences before it affects your grade (use them wisely). After three unexcused absences, your grade will drop by full letter. Your participation grade will drop a full letter after two unexcused absences. Following that, each unexcused absence will drop your participation grade by another letter. Six unexcused absences will result in failing the course.

For any planned absences, in a situation that allows for an excused absence, you must inform me as early as possible prior to class. For all unplanned absences because of an emergency situation, you should contact me as soon as conditions permit.

Students must be present for the final critique in order to receive credit for their final project. Appropriate documentation from the student health service must be obtained for medical excuses. Please look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays) that conflict with classes, due dates, or critiques. If you do have a conflict, contact the instructor in advance.

Registered students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings for the course, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

The School of Art + Art History Health and Safety Policy handbook provides policy and training for health and safety. Students must follow handbook policies which can be found [here](#).

You will receive health and safety training for this course. Afterwards you must sign a document confirming your training, no later than the third class meeting.

**Use of aerosol products (such as fixative, spray paint) may only be used in the designated spray booth in FAC 211A.*

Fixatives, Mists, Adhesives, Spray Paint

- *Both permanent and workable spray fixatives used to fix drawings contain toxic solvents. There is high exposure by inhalation to these solvents because the products are sprayed in the air, often right on a desk or easel. Additionally, you can be inhaling the plastic particles that comprise the fixative itself.*
- *Spray mists are particularly hazardous because they are easily inhaled. If the paint being sprayed contains solvents, then you can be inhaling liquid droplets of the solvents. In addition, the pigments are also easily inhaled, creating a much more dangerous situation than applying paint by brush.*

- *Aerosol spray paints have an additional hazard besides pigments and solvents. They contain propellants, usually isobutanes and propane, which are extremely flammable and have been the cause of many fires. Other aerosol spray products such as retouching sprays, spray varnishes, etc. also contain solvents.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting the [Disability Resource Center's page found here](#).

Please share your accommodation letter and discuss your access needs with me, as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

CONTENT WARNING

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in an art course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I will do my best to give you advance notice when specific materials or content covered may contain images, language or perspectives that some may find difficult. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care](#) website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.