

ART 6933: The a story of art (some stories of contemporary art)
GRADUATE SEMINAR IN PAINTING + DRAWING + PRINTMAKING

SPRING 2024 | 3 credits | T | Period 2-4 (8:30 AM- 11:30 AM) | Location – GRADhaus and other locations T.B.A



IMAGE: Laurie Anderson, *The Weather*, at the Hirshhorn Museum D.C., exhibition accompanied by a series of live performances from January 2022 to August 2022.

Instructor: Associate Professor, Bethany Taylor (she/her/hers)
Email: bwarp@ufl.edu
Office: FAD 221 | Office hours: TH 10-12am or (or by appointment)

E-learning /canvas: announcements, weekly calendar/due dates, assignment descriptions, course materials/readings, grading, and office hours/class zoom link

Canvas discussion board:

a space to archive assigned individual responses to course readings and to collectively share relevant course info + resources + opportunities + creative research

Graduate seminar in painting, drawing and printmaking, **The a story of art**, will explore chronicles, positions, and imaginaries that may inform cultural and contemporary art practices.

The seminar is structured to dedicate equal time to reading/writing/presentation/discussion and to studio practice/group critique. The course is designed to support graduate students to articulate, challenge and redefine their individual studio practices while informed by a provocative mix of readings, film screenings, individual research, collaborative/individual writing, presentations, focused conversations, and visiting artists. The course will encourage a proactive investigation of topics broadly related to themes and ideas presented in the course in order to inform individual research and studio practice.

Half of the seminar will be reserved for lectures/presentations, films, visiting artists and discussions of weekly readings. The other aspect of the seminar will primarily be reserved for group critiques. We will develop a semester-long critique calendar the first week of class and readings/assignments will be posted and updated each week on e-learning/canvas.

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop a critical approach to, and understanding of, topics in contemporary art and the histories that inform them.
- To develop new methodologies, lines of inquiry or strategies to inform, build upon or challenge your current research and practice.
- To develop and contribute intellectual musings and practical examples of artists' work related to readings, peer critiques and course content by way of online discussion board and presentations in class.
- To engage in a rigorous practice of creative work and inquiry successfully linking research, concept, intent, form and medium to effectively communicate to an intentional audience.
- To evaluate individual and peer work in relation to the context of class discussions and outside readings (in order to create a more engaged learning environment for all).
- To learn to engage in constructive and challenging critical discussion of artwork and to find ways to integrate relevant suggestions by others into one's studio practice/research.
- To learn to better articulate and present one's ideas and work to an audience.
- To participate with openness to aesthetic, political and cultural debates and to carefully listen and engage wholeheartedly within a diverse community of active working artists.

TOPICS / WEEKLY CALENDAR:

The course will be divided into weekly units for discussion with topics/prompts related to course themes (*which are partially determined by visiting artists and by student interests*). Readings, discussion questions, and/or prompts for discussion board entries will be assigned weekly, in addition to an ongoing schedule of weekly group critiques (two-three-students per week). An updated course schedule will be posted on canvas including reading assignments, due dates, visiting artists, field trips, daily course plans and group critique schedules. Please check e-learning/canvas several times weekly and before each seminar class for important announcements.

REQUIRED TEXT/s:

No Textbook Required. Course readings/video viewings will be assigned weekly and posted on E-learning/Canvas.

GRADING:

Individual letter-grades will be recorded for weekly discussion board responses related to assigned readings and prompts, participation in a rigorous studio, research and critical practice.

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 **4.0/ A-** 90-93 **3.67/ B+** 87-89 **3.33/ B** 83-86 **3.0/ B-** 80-82 **2.67/ C+** 77-79 **2.33/ C** 73-76 **2.0/ C-** 70-72 **1.67/D+** 67-69 **1.33/ D** 63-66 **1.0/ D-** 60-62 **.67/ E** 0-59

Final grades in the course will weighted according to the following breakdown:

- 20% **Weekly discussion board responses to assigned readings/videos/visiting artists/research prompts and participation in seminar discussions.** Readings/Videos/Prompts will be posted weekly to canvas. Responses should be thoughtful, well researched and related to your work and/or individual interests in the topics/questions presented. Your discussion board entry will be a start for your contributions to the discussion each week. Every student will be expected to share responses to readings and assignments as well as develop further questions for peers in discussions.
- 30% **Independent research and studio work/critique presentations/studio visits (1 w/me and at least 2 with other faculty/visiting artists),** should demonstrate a commitment to studio practice and carefully considered presentation of work created specifically during the semester long course. Artist statements should accompany the work and be posted to the class via E-learning/canvas discussion board by 5pm the day

before critique. Additional **independent research** will be expected including **active participation in the Visiting Artist Program** and attendance at local, regional and virtual **exhibitions** is highly encouraged.

10% **Active participation in peer critiques with follow-up** by sharing suggested research and resources to your peers via canvas discussion board.

40% Assigned Research/Practice/Presentation Prompts (to be described/outlined in seminar and canvas):

Diving into the Wreck and other Stories (poetry/allegory as artist statement)

Who is your Soulmate? (relating to art-understanding positionality)

Action Items for New Experiments (practices of promoting action/risk-taking)

Curate an Argument (asserting your voice + place in contemporary art)

Evaluation:

- A 4.0 Extremely well-presented, thoughtfully executed, superior work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio and research practice, which includes active independent research, looking up artists recommended by faculty and peers, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in reading assignments and individual studio work. Resulting work completed during the semester demonstrates a high level of understanding of the assignments presented, and the complex questions raised in seminar topics and discussions as well as by one's own studio work. Student demonstrates a high level of critical thinking, craftsmanship, conceptual experimentation, and a desire to learn and grow as an artist is evidenced through exemplary attendance, hard work, curiosity, openness to criticism and willingness to make improvements and share learning and insights with peers.
- B 3.0 Very good work overall. Most criteria of assignments were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Studio and research practice was commendable and there is an obvious effort made to adhere to and address the criteria and purposes of assignments and to relate responses/insights to course topics. Good attendance (maximum of 3 absences), participation in critique, and general conscientious work submitted is characteristic and student generally operates as a thoughtful, engaged citizen of the community. Most of the criteria of A apply, but to a lesser degree.
- C 2.0 Adequate, average, work meeting most of the assignment criteria with areas needing significant improvement. Work demonstrates a fairly good attempt at responding to the problems or topics presented, but the work lacks the engagement, effort and comprehensive understanding characteristic of a B. Poor studio and research practice are exhibited overall.
- D 1.0 Barely meets the criteria of assignments, extremely poor or unfinished work, highlighting unacceptable studio and research practice. Barely contributing to the seminar environment.
- E 0.0 Failure to meet all criteria of assignment accompanied by unacceptable studio/research practice. Not contributing to the seminar environment.

More information on UF grading policies can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpoliciestext>

ATTENDANCE POLICY/COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- **Attendance is mandatory** and students should participate the duration of the scheduled class period. A seminar course requires a vibrant community of active, reflective, productive and collaborative citizens and all are expected to be prepared, on time and ready share opinions and insights for the success of the learning environment. If an absence occurs it is the student's responsibility to follow-up and to make up all work they missed.
- **All artwork for group critique must be complete and installed before the start of the course period.** A critique should not be missed, and cannot be made-up for purposes of grading.
- **Full engagement in course discussion board, discussions in seminar, timely completion of assignments fulfilling course criteria, cohesive verbal presentation of studio artwork and constructive criticism of peer work** is expected.
- **On-going rigorous studio practice** should be maintained outside of regularly scheduled class. Since we only meet once a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays should be reserved for studio work.

- **Weekly discussion board assignments** will be considered late if not posted each week by 8pm the Monday evening before our Tuesday morning seminar and will be lowered one grade for each class responses are not submitted.
- **The Visiting Artist Program** is a vital part of your graduate education and there are many opportunities to engage with national and internationally renowned artists, curators, scholars, critics and collectors invited to speak at the SA+AH, Harn Museum and in the community. **You will be encouraged/expected to attend all of the Visiting Artist Lectures:**

VISITING ARTISTS LECTURE CALENDAR SPRING 2024:

Wayne Hodge – January 23rd at 6pm, location T.B.A

Jiha Moon – January 30th at 6pm, location T.B.A

Cara Despain – February 6th at 6pm, location T.B.A

María Korol – April 9th at 6pm, location T.B.A

- You are encouraged to **seek out and attend exhibitions/performances** (in person or virtually) throughout the semester at our regional art venues, on campus or in the community. *Share with your peers any images or things you learned from/or mused about the event on the course discussion board.*
- You are encouraged to **seek out and apply for opportunities** (exhibitions, residencies, and other professional opportunities) **in order** to promote your work and practice.
- You are **expected to have one studio visit with me and 2 or more others with other faculty or visiting artists** (with at least one being from outside of your area of study). *Notes from these visits should be posted on canvas for research/studio work credit (under studio visits assignment).*
- **Maintaining an active UF email account** that is checked regularly and linked with canvas.
- **Evaluation of the course** online at the end of semester is required.

UF attendance policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

UF and SA+AH POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who will then provide this to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resources Center <https://disability.ufl.edu> is located in 001 Reid Hall (phone (352) 392-8565)

SA+AH HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND HANDBOOK:

https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saah_health_and_safety_handbook_2021.pdf

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The course will follow the University's honesty policy found on-line at: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. Work completed for this course may not be turned in for any other class. In addition, work turned in for credit in another class may not be turned in for credit in this class.

DEMEANOR POLICY

Students must turn off cell phones, and all electronic devices during class time and respect and participate in course activities at hand.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

It is my intent that we explore the content of this course in a way that is respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. It is also my intent to present content that explores diverse points of view, which might be challenging. Maintaining a respectful environment will be both your, and my responsibility. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and

perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Faculty, Students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees [hereinafter referred to as "member(s)" of the University], who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.

UF Student Honor Code including individual academic and social responsibility can be found at:
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/12/Orange-Book-Web-Version-2020.pdf>

UF COURSE EVALUATION

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.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF POLICY FOR IN-CLASS RECORDING

"Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab/studio sessions, student presentations, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code."

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

With regard to COVID-19, UF states that "We have now entered a phase that enables us to largely return to normal operations, on campus and in our communities. While cases of COVID-19 continue to be reported, nearly 70% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. Public health officials and others indicate we have reached the point where COVID-19 will be with us in some form for the foreseeable future, much like the flu and other illnesses."

As we navigate the shared space of the studio classroom, let us just be sure to take care of one another. Although signage in campus buildings has been removed, and masks are no longer requested/provided in classrooms, **anyone who wishes to wear a mask, for any reason, is always welcome to do so.** UF encourages everyone to get vaccinated

and stay current with boosters to minimize COVID-related risks. Visit <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org> for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

UF RESOURCES FOR HEALTH/WELLNESS

University Counseling Services: 352-392-1575 <https://counseling.ufl.edu>

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university. Counseling Center Web site: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/office/counseling-wellness-center/>

U MATTER, WE CARE

Your wellbeing is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative <<https://umatter.ufl.edu>> is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 911.

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 <https://shcc.ufl.edu>

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; <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu> or call 352-273-4450.