

Modern Art Seminar



Images: John Heartfield, Cover for *AIZ*, August 10, 1933; Salvador Dalí, *Soft Construction with Boiled Beans (Premonition of Civil War)*, 1936; Gerardo Dottori, *Portrait of the Duce*, 1933

ARH 6496: Modern Art Seminar
School of Art + Art History, College of the Arts, University of Florida
Fall 2018

Wednesdays | Period 8-10: 3:00-6:00pm

Room: FAC 0116A

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: Graduate standing in art history or consent of instructor

Course Fees: \$11.00

Instructor: Professor Rachel Silveri

Email: rsilveri@arts.ufl.edu

Office: FAC 119B

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment

Office Telephone: 352-273-3053 – Outside of class and office hours, please know that my preferred method for communication is through email.

Course Canvas Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/355508>

Course Description

Topics in modern art. This course will closely examine the relationship between art and politics in the European historical avant-gardes from 1910 to 1945.

Course Objectives

- Provide knowledge about the history of politics in Italy, Germany, and France during the early twentieth-century and an in-depth understanding of the many ways by which artists responded to those politics
- Greatly strengthen critical analysis, research, bibliographic, presentation, and writing skills in the production of a final research paper and a presentation of its research to the class

- Advance critical reasoning skills in the weekly presentation, discussion, and analysis of scholarly texts

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, Due Dates

Attendance in seminar is mandatory. Any absences that are incurred as a consequence of serious illness, religious observance, or family emergency will be excused with an official doctor's note or written statement, although supplemental assignments may be assigned in order to help keep up with the material.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, and to actively participate throughout our seminar discussions. This is a “no screens” seminar, so please bring to class hard copies of the readings and a writing notebook for taking notes.

All assignments must be turned in on time.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Diversity

It is my intent that we explore the content of this course in a way that is respectful of diversity—including 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 my responsibility and yours. It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Course Requirements and Grading

- Overall seminar participation: 15%
- Presentations on readings: 15%
- Contemporary art and politics response paper: 5%

- Abstract and bibliography: 10%
- Final paper presentation: 15%
- Final paper: 40%

Completion of all presentations and assignments is necessary to pass the course.

For more information on UF’s grading policies and assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	93 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 92	3.67
B+	87 to 89	3.33
B	83 to 86	3.00
B-	80 to 82	2.67
C+	77 to 79	2.33
C	73 to 76	2.00
C-	70 to 72	1.67
D+	67 to 69	1.33
D	63 to 66	1.00
D-	60 to 62	0.67
E, I, NG, WF	59 and below	0.00

Assignments

Presentations on Readings

In order to facilitate discussion, many of the assigned readings will be presented in-class by seminar participants. The goal of such presentations is to unpack the main arguments and critical stakes of the readings; relate them to other texts, issues, or works already discussed; and/or raise questions about them for discussion. Each presentation should include a discussion of a related artwork. Presentations should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length. Students should expect to make two of these presentations throughout the semester.

Contemporary Art and Politics Response Paper

Students are to attend the Visiting Artist Lectures by Dread Scott (Tuesday, September 4 at 6:00pm) and Aliza Nisenbaum (Tuesday, September 25 at 6:00pm) and write a 500-word response paper analyzing how their art responds to contemporary politics. Due: Wednesday, September 26, in class.

Abstract and Bibliography

In advance of their final research presentations and paper, students will prepare an abstract of 500 words outlining the scope of their topic and the materials to be examined. They will also include a preliminary bibliography of at least eight scholarly texts. Due: Wednesday, October 17, in class.

Final Paper Presentation

Students will present a polished, conference-style presentation of their final paper to the class, complete with a PowerPoint of related images. Presentations should be approximately 20 minutes in length. Presentation dates: Wednesday, November 28 and Wednesday, December 5, in class.

Final Paper

The final paper should be 12-15 pages in length and demonstrate significant research, original argumentation, clearly defined critical stakes, and mastery of the related secondary literature. It should also incorporate feedback and suggestions from the final paper presentation. Late assignments will not be accepted. Plagiarism, in part or in full, will be grounds for failing the course. Due: Friday, December 14.

All assignments must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Please number the pages. Any citations must be done in Chicago-style. Chicago Manual of Style Guide: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Readings

All assigned readings will be available online through the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and must be completed before each class. Please bring hard copies of the readings to class with you. Any further suggested readings are optional.

University of Florida Student 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.’*”

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Students are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask me.

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact “U Matter, We Care” so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Email: umatter@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-392-1575

Website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>

Counseling and Wellness Center:

Address: 3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: 352-392-1575

Website: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), at the Student Health Care Center:

Phone: 352-392-1161

Website: http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual_violence

Campus Resources: Academic:

The Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall and 339 Library West, offers help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers, as well as online tutoring.

Phone: 352-846-1138

Website: <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

E-learning Technical Support:

Email: learningsupport@ufl.edu.

Phone: 352-392-4357 (select option 2)

Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Library Support, for assistance in using the libraries and finding resources.

Email: <http://answers.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Phone: 352-273-2805

Website: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>

Teaching Center, SW Broward Hall, for tutoring and strengthening study skills.

Email: teaching-center@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-392-6420

Website: <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Harn Museum of Art, 3259 Hull Road, excellent collection on campus with more than 10,000 works of art; offers free student memberships that include admission to 75+ museums nationwide, invitations to museum events, and more.

Email: membership@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-392-9826

Website: <http://harn.ufl.edu/>

Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 4:	Visiting Artist Lecture with Dread Scott
Tuesday, September 25:	Visiting Artist Lecture with Aliza Nisenbaum
Wednesday, September 26:	Contemporary Art and Politics Response Paper Due
Wednesday, October 17:	Final Paper Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography Due
Wednesday, November 28:	Final Paper Presentations
Wednesday, December 5:	Final Paper Presentations
Wednesday, December 12:	Final Paper Due

Schedule

The schedule may change slightly during the semester in response to the needs of the class.

Wednesday, August 22

Introduction, Overview, Expectations

Wednesday, August 29

Theory, Method, Definitions

📅 Tuesday, September 4, 6:00pm Dread Scott Visiting Artist Lecture

Wednesday, September 5

Theory, Method, Definitions, continued

Wednesday, September 12

Italian Futurism

Wednesday, September 19

Dada

📅 Tuesday, September 25, 6:00pm Aliza Nisenbaum Visiting Artist Lecture

Wednesday, September 26

Neo-Classicism and Returns to Order

📅 Contemporary Art and Politics Response Paper Due

Wednesday, October 3

John Heartfield

Wednesday, October 10

Surrealism

Wednesday, October 17

Pablo Picasso & Francis Picabia

📅 Final Paper Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography Due

Wednesday, October 24

Arts and Culture in Germany

Wednesday, October 31

Research Day – Library Work on Final Papers

Wednesday, November 7

Presentation by Dr. Kaira Cabañas, Associate Professor

Wednesday, November 14
Contemporary examples

Wednesday, November 21
Holiday – NO CLASS

Wednesday, November 28
✉ Final Paper Presentations

Wednesday, December 5
✉ Final Paper Presentations

Wednesday, December 12
✉ Final Paper Due