

**Modern African Art**  
(ARH 4930)



Image: Malangatana Valente Ngwenya, *The Girls' Secret*, 1960.



Image: Bertina Lopes, *In Memory of My Son Virgilio*, 1992.

**Mondays | Period 3 and 4: 9:35 AM – 11:30 AM**  
**Wednesdays | Period 4: 10:40 – 11:30 AM**

**Location:** FAC 0201 (class meets at the Harn Museum of Art on 9/9, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18)

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** ARH 2050 or ARH 2051 and (art major or art history minor).

**Additional Course Fees:** \$16.49

**Instructor:** Álvaro Luís Lima

**Contact:** [lima@ufl.edu](mailto:lima@ufl.edu) or (352)294-0556 (e-mail preferred)

**Office Hours:** Mondays | Period 10: 5:10 PM – 6:00 PM or by appointment

**Course Canvas Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/382489>

**Course Description:** It is widely known that modernists from around the world have searched for inspiration in African art, but how have African artists engaged with modernity? This course will provide an overview of the major themes shaping modern art from Africa. It will begin by analyzing the impact of primitivism in the continent's artistic practices and conclude by looking at the farewell to modernity with the rise of the "global contemporary." The search for liberation from colonialism and imperialism was a particularly fertile ground for the development of modern art on the continent, which is why the period from the end of colonial regimes through the Cold War will be given special emphasis. Topics will include figures, movements and practices from areas as diverse as Algeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Sudan.

**Course Objectives:**

- Familiarity with methodological nuances in researching modern African art through class readings, discussion, and writing assignments.
- Build critical analysis of readings from various periods in modern African art historiography.
- Attribute major artistic movements and figures to the national histories in which they appear while expanding skills on identifying pan-African connections in the development of modern art through readings and diagram assignment.
- Develop ability to engage with modern African art as producer of political, postcolonial, feminist, queer, and aesthetic theories through readings and class discussions.
- Develop oral presentation skills by managing a class discussion.
- Expand visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through short writing assignments.

**Required Readings:** Required readings will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and should be done in preparation for classes. Please, bring a hard copy of the reading to class to allow optimal participation. Input in class discussion of the readings will be an essential part of the participation grade.

**Optional Readings:** A selection of relevant books have been placed on course reserves at the Architecture & Fine Arts Library and can be consulted to complement required readings.

## **Requirements and Grading**

### **Assessments:**

- 10%: African map quiz (8/28)  
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 10%: Mediation of a class discussion (scheduled throughout the semester)  
Students will be responsible for mediating the discussion of a selected reading or work of art approved by the instructor.
- 10%: Attendance and participation in class  
In order to get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but to actively engage in discussions.
- 15%: First short writing assignment (due 10/2)  
An essay question on a theme discussed in previous classes and readings will be sent by e-mail 10 days prior to the assignment's deadline.
- 15%: Second short writing assignment (due 10/30)  
An essay question on a theme discussed in previous classes and readings will be sent by e-mail 10 days prior to the assignment's deadline.
- 10% Diagram (due 11/25)  
Students are expected to construct a diagram (i.e. Coggle) showing the many connections between the various artists, movements, and themes discussed throughout the semester. The diagram can be created digitally or by hand, but should be handed in as a hard copy.
- 30%: In-class writing assignment (12/4)  
A list of essay questions will be distributed two weeks before. Three of such questions will be part of the in-class writing assignment.

**Submission of Assignments:** All written assignments should be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Delays may incur in a grade penalty and electronic copies will not be accepted. Written assignments must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Any citations must be done in Chicago-style. Please number and staple pages. Further details on all assignments and exams will be provided during the semester.

### **Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:**

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

### **Please note:**

- Completion of all assignments and exams is necessary to pass the course.
- Any grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.
- For more information on UF's grading policies and assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>% Equivalency</b>	<b>GPA Equivalency</b>
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

## **Course Instructions and Policies**

**Attendance:** Attendance to all classes is expected, including museum visits. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation or doctor's note.

**No Electronic Devices:** The use of electronic devices, including computers, will not be allowed during class.

**Electronic Communication:** Announcements about the class may be sent by e-mail, so please check it regularly. All electronic communication should be made through your official UF account. I will answer your e-mails as quickly as I can, but please allow forty-eight hours for responses.

**Plagiarism and other malpractices:** UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the Honor Code, and student conduct related to the Honor Code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For more information on the Honor Code, see: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns on this, please feel free to speak to me.

**For Students with Disabilities:** If you need course adaptation or accommodations because of a disability you should first register with the Disability Resource Center [(352) 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)] by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Diversity Statement:** This course is committed to respecting difference, including of ability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. As part of this effort, the intent is to present content that explores diverse points of view. As a class, we should strive to create an atmosphere in which students from all backgrounds and perspectives will be well-served by the course, and different backgrounds and perspectives will be used as a resource, strength, and benefit. It will be both my responsibility and yours to accomplish these goals. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

**Faculty 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/>.

**Schedule:**

**8/21: Introduction**

**8/26: Primitivism and Modern Art from Europe**

**8/28: Uganda**

- In-class African map quiz

**9/2: No class (Labor Day)**

**9/4: Mozambique I**

**9/9: Mozambique II**

- Class held at the Harn Museum of Art. Please meet at the front lobby on time.

**9/11: Mozambique III**

**9/16: Pan-African Connections**

**9/18: Nigeria**

**9/23: Nigeria II**

**9/25: Nigeria III**

**9/30: No class (Rosh Hashana)**

**10/2: Sudan**

- First short writing assignment due at the beginning of class.

**10/7: Sudan II**

- Class held at the Harn Museum of Art. Please meet at the front lobby on time.

**10/9: No class (Yom Kippur)**

**10/14: Egypt**

**10/16: Congo-Brazzaville and Senegal I**

**10/21: Senegal II**

- Class held at the Harn Museum of Art. Please meet at the front lobby on time.

**10/23: Senegal III**

**10/28: Algeria**

**10/30: Angola**

**11/4: Ethiopia**

- Class held at the Harn Museum of Art. Please meet at the front lobby on time.

**11/6: Ethiopia II**

- Second short writing assignment due at the beginning of class.

**11/11: No class (Veterans Day)**

**11/13: DRC**

**11/18: Mali**

- Class held at the Harn Museum of Art. Please meet at the front lobby on time.

**11/20: South Africa I**

**11/25: South Africa II**

- Diagram assignment due at the beginning of class.

**11/27: No class (Thanksgiving Break)**

**12/2: South Africa III**

**12/4: Welcome to the Global Contemporary**

- In-class writing assignment

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual_violence).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@ufl.edu). Phone: (352)392-9826. Website: <http://harn.ufl.edu/>