

African Art Seminar: Time and African Art
(ARH6597)



Image: Mame-Diarra Niang, *Untitled* (#25, Sahel Gris Series), 2013.



Image: Kiluanji Kia Henda, *A City Called Mirage*, 2014-2017.

Mondays | Period 8-10: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: FAC 116A

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Additional Course Fees: \$12.67

Instructor: Álvaro Luís Lima

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

Office Hours: FAC 121 Mondays | Period 11: 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM and by appointment

Course Canvas Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/393965>

Course Description: What do we mean when we call a work of art “contemporary”? How do works of art produce ideologies of past, present, and future? And what to make of this difficult and sometimes bothersome signifier, “history,” in the name of our discipline? This seminar will analyze recent scholarship addressing the relationship between art history, the humanities, and time, to consider how it engages with African art. It’s about time!

In the past few decades, African art history has situated time at the very center of its disciplinary inquiry, dividing its objects of study between elusive notions of “traditional,” “historic,” “modern,” and “contemporary.” The course will include readings from across the humanities that can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the role of time in the arts of the continent. Topics will include nostalgia, futurity, *après-coup*, the event, and queer temporalities. The seminar is open to all graduate students in the humanities who are interested in expanding their methodological breadth.

Course Goals:

- Critically engage with concepts such as “modern,” “contemporary,” “nostalgia,” “futurity,” and “event,” through course readings and discussions.
- Analyze how African art has addressed time through case studies of major exhibitions, historiography, and artists.
- Detail how scholarship on time provides new ways of looking at the student’s academic area of focus through independent research for paper.
- Expand presentation skills through class discussions, presentations and mediation.
- Develop pedagogical and critical skills by providing constructive feedback to colleagues’ paper drafts.
- Polish writing and research skills by developing a brief annotated bibliography and writing a research paper.

Readings: Readings will be placed on Course Reserves in the Fine Arts Library. Students may purchase books at their discretion.

Requirements and Grading

Assessments:

- 10%, Participation (throughout semester)
Attendance and participation in class discussions.
- 20%, Class Mediation (throughout semester)
Students will be in charge of mediating the discussion of classes throughout the semester. Format can vary, but students are expected to bring a case study, prepare questions and points for discussion on the readings.
- 10%, Roundtable at New World School of Arts (3/26)
Students will moderate a discussion with students from the New World School of Arts on the role of time in contemporary art practices. Further details and necessary preparation will be discussed throughout the semester.
- 20%, Feedback on Peer's Paper Draft (due on 4/6)
Students will submit a four-page draft of final paper for feedback from a colleague randomly assigned in class. Instructor's evaluation of the feedback will be based on its constructive character and ability to address the draft's strengths and areas for improvement.
- 40%, Final Paper (due on 4/27)
Twenty-page final paper in which students are expected to elaborate on a relevant theme of their choice previously discussed with instructor. Evaluation will be based on quality of research, originality, style, and overall organization of the argument.

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. Citations must be in accordance with the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. Please number and staple pages. Further details on all assignments will be provided during the semester.

Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Please note:

- Completion of all assignments 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>

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

Course Instructions and Policies

Attendance: Attendance to all classes is expected. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation such as a doctor's note. Beyond attendance to weekly meetings, students are also required to participate in the following two events:

- New World School of Arts roundtable, March 19, date and details to be confirmed.
- Kobena Mercer's lecture "Afro-Atlantic, Neo-Romantic: Reflections on Rotimi Fani-Kayode," April 16 6pm Chandler Auditorium, Harn Museum of Art.
- Kobena Mercer's master class, April 16, date and details to be confirmed.

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/] 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:

Week 1 – 1/6: The End of Sleep

Week 2 – 1/13: The Other

Week 3 – 1/20: **No Class, Martin Luther King Day**

Week 4 – 1/27: The End of Art History

Week 5 – 2/3: The Contemporary

Week 6 – 2/10: Après-Coup

Week 7 – 2/17: Cuts

Week 8 – 2/24: The Postcolony

Week 9 – 3/2: **No Class, Spring Break**

Week 10 – 3/9: Against the Future

Week 11 – 3/16: Black Futures
3/19: NWSA Roundtable

Week 12 – 3/23: **No Class, Research Break**

Week 13 – 3/30: Nostalgia

Week 14 – 4/6: Nostalgia II

Week 15 – 4/13: Diasporic Times
4/16: HESCAH Lecture and master class with Kobena Mercer

Week 16 – 4/20: The Event

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.

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/>