

ARE 6641: Contemporary Issues in Art Education

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Delacruz Email: Seventhedelacruz@ufl.edu

Note: All email communication should be through CANVAS. Use my faculty email address only if you have an emergency and/or are unable to access CANVAS email.

DESCRIPTION:

This course explores ways in which contemporary issues in art, education, and society influence theories and practices in art education. Through weekly reading assignments, discussions, and individual research projects students will examine scholarly writings, creative practices, and contemporary issues as they shape art education. As an issues-oriented course, topics for consideration in ARE 6641 are grounded in practices that foster personal creative potential for individuals and communities and that envision art and education as a form of critical public engagement based on democratic values.

Purpose and Objectives:

This course examines how contemporary issues, theories, trends, and creative practices impact the multi-faceted profession of art education, as these theories and practices are understood in relation to broader overlapping societal, cultural, and political contexts. Although much of what we will talk about concerns schools, it is important to also embrace the fact that art education today takes place in many sites (community centers, museums, libraries, summer camps, hospitals, prisons, early childhood and senior care facilities, etc.). Through critical and contextual approaches, students will develop and refine their personal and professional beliefs about art and art education in contemporary life and will identify and engage topics for further research and critical inquiry. At the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Explain how contemporary research, movements, and social/cultural/educational issues reflect and impact practices in art and art education.
- Understand how contemporary theories in art education are shaped in relation to broader issues and movements in society and cultures.
- Critically connect contemporary socio-cultural issues to one's creative and professional practices as an artist and educator.
- Identify and utilize current scholarly, professional, and creative research, practices, and online resources (books, journals, zines, websites, blogs, exhibitions, multi-media presentations, online sites, etc.) to further one's understanding of the profession and educational practices.
- Conduct research, create art works, and write scholarly texts that engage course theses and issues.
- Share research and creative work with peers and with the public.
- Speculate about possible future directions/issues/research in the multi-faceted discipline of art education.

Course Requirements:

To achieve course objectives, students will:

- Read, synthesize, and prepare critical reflections on selected readings.
- Creatively and critically analyze and utilize available resources as they inform and extend upon one's professional practices.
- Contribute constructively and regularly through active engagement in all course activities (readings, discussions, meetings, research, and presentations) with the intent of expressing one's views honestly while respecting diverse viewpoints.
- Participate professionally in the course online learning community through supportive and informative responses to peers and through thoughtful presentations of personal research.
- Complete an independent research project that extends the course content while honoring personal interests.

Textbook and Materials:

ARE 6641 relies heavily on selected readings from current literature from the fields of art, education, and art education. Readings are on electronic reserve in the UF Library ARES Course Reserves system. These readings are listed within each lesson.

Websites, articles, videos, and other materials will also be assigned and available to you throughout the course (listed within each lesson). **Course readings are available through the Course Reserves link found on the left hand area of this course.**

Accessing Readings: If you haven't yet verified that you can access the UF Library System remotely, make sure that you are able to do so. In order to access the Course Reserves, you need to connect through VPN. To download and install VPN, go to <http://vpn.ufl.edu>

If you need assistance connecting VPN, contact the UF Helpdesk at 352-392-HELP (4357).

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, all students are required to have and use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), Seventh Edition (7th ed) published by the American Psychological Association. This book is available both on the APA Website <http://www.apastyle.org/manual/index.aspx>

Learning Activities:

A variety of learning activities are designed to support the course objectives, accommodate different learning styles, build a community of learners, and help you to achieve the student learning objectives. The primary instructional methods of this course include assigned readings and inquiry activities for each lesson, short formally written essays (reading reviews), online group discussions relating to the course topics, student presentations, work with peers, research, and independent creative and scholarly project work. Extensive reading, writing, interaction with peers, and independent research will be required to help students achieve the course objectives.

Note: Due dates for all learning activities are provided in the course schedule.

Zoom Conferences:

We use Zoom Conferences for live class meetings and presentations.

All students must have a USB headset with a microphone. This piece of equipment is crucial for fully accessing the live, synchronous sessions we have via Zoom Conferences.

Reading Reviews:

Course readings examine contemporary theories, practices, and social issues and apply these examinations to contemporary art education theories and practices. Each of the three reading reviews has its own prompt. Students must read this carefully in each assignment.

General Format:

Reading Reviews must be typed and between 900-1000 words in length. Use 1-inch borders, double line spacing, and utilize a 12-pt typeface such as Times New Roman or Arial. The entire review is written in paragraph/narrative form. The first line of each new paragraph is indented by .5." No extra spaces should be added between paragraphs or before and after headings and bullets should not be used. Use bold, flush headings to organize your writing.

In evaluating each Reading Review, the following criteria will be taken into consideration: (a) organization and mechanics, (b) content objectives, and (c) development and relevance. See the [Reading Review Rubric](#) for guidelines.

For each submitted Reading Review, each student receives written feedback from faculty regarding fulfillment of assignment guidelines and quality of writing. This feedback will be available both on your document submitted and in the instructor comment area of the Assignment Drop boxes. **Students are responsible for reading all provided instructor feedback, understanding it, and submitting subsequent reviews that appropriately attend to writing problems identified by instructors in previously evaluated papers.** Students are expected to correct writing, mechanical, grammar, or APA problems identified by the instructor in earlier papers in subsequent papers. Refer to the Reading Review Guidelines and Rubric for more details.

Discussion Forums:

In this course, students encounter three types of Discussion Forums: (1) Weekly Thematic Discussions, (2) Project Sharing Discussion, and (3) Peer Mentoring Discussion Forums. Eight of these Discussion Forums are graded (Weekly Thematic forums). The Project Sharing Discussions will count toward each assignment.

Weekly Thematic Discussion Forums: Throughout the semester, students are required to read various articles, chapters, explore websites, videos and artwork. Students will reflect on those readings and other materials and engage in dialogue with classmates

via discussion forums. The point of these discussions is not to merely summarize the reading assignments or to achieve one particular understanding of an assigned author's point of view for the whole class. Instead, the goal is to consider new insights and perspectives and to apply and critically engage with the readings they relate to our own beliefs and values.

Specific directions and prompts for each Weekly Thematic Discussion Forum are provided. Students are expected to react and consider these prompts and directions.

Participation Expectations in Weekly Thematic Discussions:

Weekly Thematic Discussions Forums are open for the duration of each lesson to which they are linked.

Each student is expected to contribute a minimum of five times to each Thematic Discussion. First, by submitting an initial post and then prompt replies to at least two peers who reply to your initial post and then continuing other discussions by responding to peers. In addition, you should respond to a minimum of two of your peers' initial posts, and then reply when they respond to you.

Your initial Thematic Discussion Forum posts should be between 250-400 words long. Each student is expected to submit his/her initial reading and prompt response post within the first three days of the lesson. This will allow you to reflect and post thoughtful replies to your classmates throughout the remainder of the lesson. Remember, in addition to posting your own personal response to the discussion topics, you are expected to respond in a meaningful way to a minimum of 2 other postings from your class members.

You should login to the Weekly Thematic Discussion Forums (and/or other discussion forums) several times each week to follow the ideas of your peers. Your critical approach to the content is very much welcome.

A minimum of FIVE posts and replies (combined) is expected to meet expected standards for this assignment. Meeting expectations for graded discussion forums earns 3 - 3.5 points. Additional participation is encouraged and will earn higher points in grading. You should read as many of your peers' initial responses as possible each lesson, even if you only reply to a few.

Peer Mentoring Discussion Forum:

For one of our Assignments, the Personal Voice/Critical Intervention project, students will mentor (advise and assist) one another in a Peer Mentoring Discussion Forum. Peer mentoring will take place during lessons 3 and 4. The instructor will assign peer mentoring groups in an Announcement. Each student will mentor/advise 2 - 3 peers as they progress in their work on this assignment.

Project Sharing Discussion Forums:

There are three (3) major projects due in this course the (Identity Project; the Personal Voice/Critical Intervention Action Plan; and the Final Independent Project). In our Project Sharing Discussion Forums, each student will post an active web-link to a completed project along with a short description, then review each other's completed projects, and offer comments to one another. Participation in Project Sharing Forums will likely extend beyond a specific lesson or week.

Professional Website:

Students are expected to share major projects in this course (images and writings) on personal, professional websites. If a student does not yet have a professional website, a site needs to be established during this course. Websites will be used throughout courses in the UF Art Education online program.

Students in previous semesters have easily and successfully used the following free web hosting services (Google Docs, Livebinder, Weebly, Wix, Wordpress, etc). These Web hosting services also have easy to use Web templates in which content is simply uploaded to the template, and a webpage is generated automatically. Having these documents available on a website makes it tremendously easier to share them with peers in this course and art education program. Once the course has ended, students may want to improve or work further on these projects (images, writings, educational documents, etc.), or remove these documents from professional website until they are as high quality as they can be. NOTE: A website is different from a blog. Although one may also keep a blog, a website is needed for this course. ALSO NOTE: This UF website is separate from your website that you may have at your school or place of employment, although you may link to the other websites.

Identity Project:

Each student will create an image that presents her/his identity as a professional artist and/or educator. Students may use any media to create this image. Once complete, the artwork must be digitized at a high resolution. In addition, you will complete the [template provided in the Module](#) to gather other information about yourself and your professional work including a narrative professional profile. You may construct an original format for this profile that better reflects your needs and interests. This information, and your artwork, should be used to compose or update an **About Me** page on your professional website. Share the link to this information and artwork on your website in the project sharing forum and assignment dropbox.

Personal Voice/Critical Intervention:

This assignment is focused on engaging in (and contributing to) ongoing conversations about critical issues (local, regional, and global) as they shape and are shaped by art education. The purpose of this project is for students to examine contemporary *conversations* about current issues that are occurring both locally and globally that connect art, society, and education; to connect these conversations to themes or issues

of professional interest; and to join this *conversation* by developing an insightful and engaged persuasive paper and action plan that engages the issues students identify as important.

Independent Research Project:

The purpose of the Independent Project is to provide students with an opportunity to explore an issue related to contemporary art education that is of personal and professional interest, which emanates from course readings, and/or addresses a contemporary social issue that is significant to the art education community. You will present your work in real time/live to classmates in Zoom Conferences during the last week of class.

Note: If you cannot attend the live Zoom session, make arrangements with your instructor ASAP. You will be required to record your presentation as a movie file with voiceover, post your movie to YouTube, make it public, and submit your YouTube link to the Assignment Dropbox by the due date. There are many ways to make a PowerPoint presentation into a movie with voiceover. Google a "how to" question.

Grading Policy: Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- **Reading Reviews:** (Lesson 1) Contemporary Theories and Perspectives in Art Education; (Lesson 3) Visual and Material Culture; (Lesson 7) Engagements, Activism, and Art (Education) as Social Practice. Worth 10 points each, 30 points total. 20% of the final grade is based on Reading Reviews..
- **Graded Discussion Forums over Readings:** (Lesson 1) Contemporary Theories and Perspectives in Art Education; (Lesson 2) Identities in Art and Art Education; (Lesson 3) Visual and Material Culture; (Lesson 4) Diversity Issues in Art Education; (Lesson 5) Technology and New Digital Media in Art and Education; (Lesson 6) Creation, Creativity, and Artistry in Curriculum; (Lesson 7) Engagements, Activism, and Art (Education) as Social Practice; (Lesson 8) Communally Engaged Educators (summary). These graded discussion forums are worth 5 points each. 30% of the final grade if based on your participation in discussions.
- **Ungraded Peer Sharing and Peer Mentoring Discussions Forums:** These ungraded forums are for sharing projects and supporting one another. Participation is expected as part of our/your professional goal to be part of a community of learning.
- **Projects:**
 - Identity Project:** Artwork, Assignment Template, Statement, Project Sharing. Worth 25 points.
 - Personal Voice/Critical Intervention Project:** Assignment completion, submission & Project Sharing. Worth 25 points.
 - Independent Research Project:** Proposal, Reference List, Artwork, Scholarly Essay, Final Presentation, Project Sharing. Worth 40 points.
 - Combined project grades** are worth 50% of the final grade.

- **Participation in Zoom Conferences sessions is required.**

An 'Incomplete' for the course is only given to students who are in good standing, but who due unusual and unforeseen circumstances are unable to complete the course requirements in the allotted time (see Incomplete Policy below).

Late Policy:

In order to earn an 'A' in this class, all assignments must be completed and on time. Work submitted after the assigned due date (refer to course schedule for all due dates) will automatically lose 10% of total available points for each day the work is submitted late. Course work should demonstrate an ongoing process of self-reflective synthesis and critical analysis of course topics including individual research interests and evidence of transformative thinking and learning.

Incomplete Policy:

School policy dictates that an incomplete grade (or "I") should only be given in situations in which a student is in "good standing" in a course but is unable to complete the course requirements because of mitigating circumstances. In cases where an "I" is given, the student and faculty member must write out a contract that clearly defines what the student must do to remove the "I" grade. If the work is not completed by the end of the next term, and the "I" grade is not changed via a grade-change form, the "I" grade is automatically converted to an "E" grade.

Students considering withdrawal from the course should first consult their advisor and the university catalog. Refer to the official online calendar for the last day to withdraw from a class.

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

for additional information on UF grading policies. Please Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.

Grading Scale: 95-100% A; 92-94% A-; 88-91% B+; 85-87% B; 80-84% B-; 77-79% C+; 74-76% C; 70-73% C-; 67-69% D+; 63-66% D; 60-62% D; 0-59% E.

Course Policies

Professionalism:

Educator professionalism contains three essential characteristics: competence, performance, and conduct, all of which directly impact a teacher's effectiveness.

Participation:

Successful online learning requires active participation in each course. Thus, it is essential that students login to course components several times each week so that one does not miss anything or fall behind. Regular, active, and meaningful participation is expected of all students, and frequency and quality of participation may affect your grades.

Students should plan to login to the course several times throughout the week. On average, you should expect to be on one of the course sites (e.g., Canvas or Adobe Connect) several hours per week. As for time spent on outside study (e.g., reading,

writing papers, doing online research and so on), you should expect to spend approximately six to nine hours per week (or for some people more). This course includes both asynchronous and synchronous learning activities. During much of the term, you will engage in the course asynchronously on your own schedule. In addition, live, two-hour synchronous sessions are planned during the semester on Adobe Connect (refer to the course schedule for session dates and times). During these sessions, your instructor will be able to talk with students about the course content in real time, and vice versa. Expectations for the course assignments will be explained, and students will be able to ask questions. Students unable to attend a live session will be able to watch a recorded (archived) video of the meeting.

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy, which defines an academic honesty offense as "the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage." All students are required to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Guidelines, which have been accepted by the University. In the context of this class, this includes properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in completing course assignments. Additionally, students may also refer to the UF Student Guide that includes students' rights and responsibilities, UF's standard of ethical conduct, honor code and academic guidelines. In addition to providing feedback to students, to encourage proper citations and to check for potential plagiarism issues, the instructor will utilize a Turnitin function to check for proper citations and reference practices.

Network Etiquette:

Netiquette, short for network etiquette, is the set of rules and expectations governing online behavior and social interaction. The 'Core Rules of Netiquette' (Virginia Shea, 1994) are a set of guidelines that all members of this course are expected to adhere to. Remember, first we are all human. Online learning environment participants that do not adhere to the netiquette expectations may result in both personal and legal consequences.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to remove any blog and/or discussion postings deemed inappropriate.

Student Support Services:

As a student in a distance learning course or program, you have access to the same student support services that on-campus students have. For course content questions, contact your instructor. For any technical issues you encounter with your course, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP (4357), or visit <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

For a list of additional student support services links and information, please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services>

Students with Disabilities:

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Dean of Students Office and submit to this instructor the memorandum from that office concerning necessary accommodations. The Disability Resource Center may be found on the Web at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>

or reached by phone at (352) 392-7056 TDD: (352) 846-1046. All course materials may be made available in alternative format on request.

Complaints:

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course, please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Changes to the Syllabus:

The faculty reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus and course schedule. In the event that changes become necessary, students will be notified through UF email.