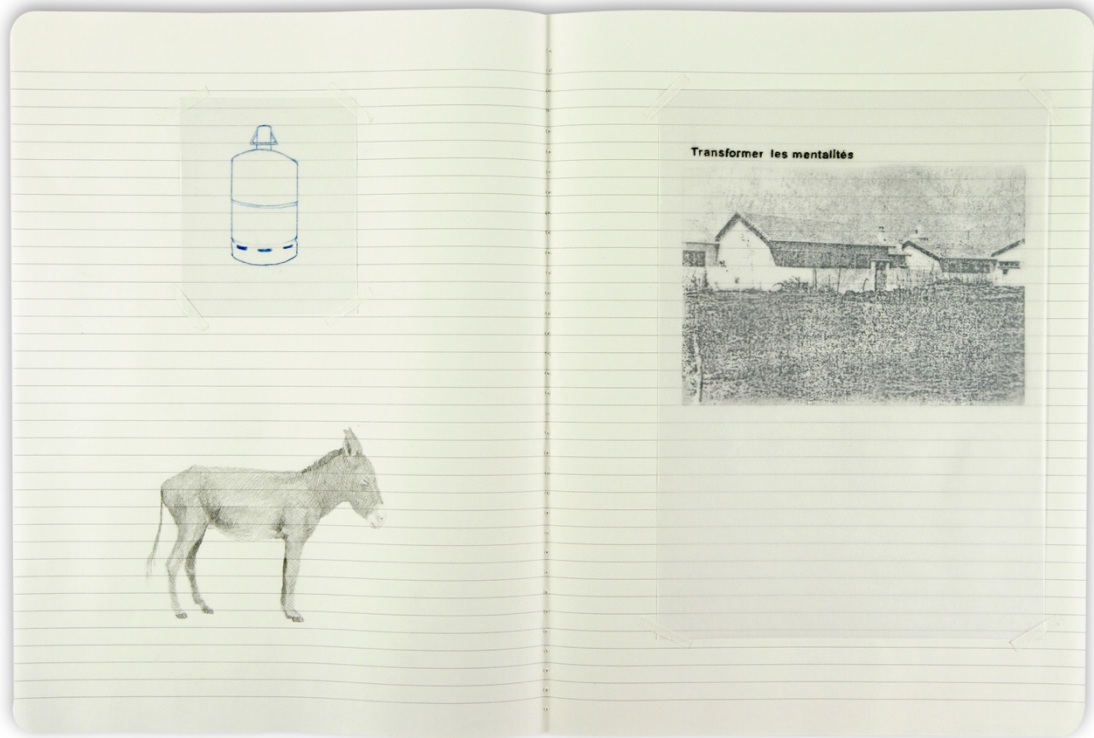


**African Socialisms: Theory as Weapon**



Massinissa Selmani, *1000 villages* (detail), 2015.



Ângela Ferreira, *Pan African Unity Mural* (detail), 2018.

**ARH 4930: Special Topics in African Art**  
**ARH 6918: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Non-Western Art**

**Mondays | Period 11-E1: 6:15 PM – 8:10 PM**

**Wednesdays | Period 11: 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM**

**Location:** Online or FAC 0201

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Additional Course Fees:** \$16.49

**Instructor:** Dr. Álvaro Luís Lima

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

**Office Hours:** Mondays | Period 6: 12:50 PM – 1:40 PM and by appointment

**Course Canvas Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/417606>

**Course Description:** As African nations proclaimed independence from colonial regimes, many chose socialist governments as means of radical reinvention. Challenging foundational principles in spatial politics, cultural production, sexual difference, and tradition, they embraced decolonization as a holistic process of transforming social practice. In this course, we will look at writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and other cultural workers that helped shape the pluralism of socialist thought in Africa. Examples include the works of Frantz Fanon, Ousmane Sembène, Amílcar Cabral, Julius Nyerere, Sarah Maldoror, Léopold Senghor, Flora Gomes, and Reinata Sadimba. Far from a mere appropriation of ideas emanating from other parts of the communist bloc, African socialisms have imagined a radical life unthought elsewhere.

**Course Goals:**

- Critically engage with major figures shaping socialist thinking and aesthetics in Africa.
- Analyze the role of socialist thinking and cultural production in African anticolonial movements and postcolonial regimes.
- Detail the role of contemporary art in historicizing African socialisms.
- Enhance awareness of the influence of African thinkers and cultural workers in contemporary thought.
- Expand oratory skills through class discussions.
- Polish writing and research skills by developing a research topic, compiling an annotated bibliography, and writing a research paper.

**Readings:** Readings will be accessible on Course Reserves or Canvas. Students may purchase books at their discretion. Recommended books for purchase:

- Aidoo, Ama Ata. *The Dilemma of the Ghost*. London: Longman Pub Group, 1995.
- Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 2005.
- Sembène, Ousmane. *God's Bit of Wood*. London: Pearson, 1995.

## **Requirements and Grading**

### **Assessments:**

- 10%, Attendance and Participation (throughout the semester)  
Attendance and participation in class discussions. For a full grade in this section, participation is essential.
- 10% African Map Quiz (1/25)  
Students are expected to identify the name of all countries in the African continent.
- 20%, In-Class Writing Assignment 1 & 2 (10% each, 2/15 and 4/12)  
A list of essay questions will be distributed a week before the exam. One of such questions will be part of the in-class writing assignment.
- 10% Paper Proposal (due on 3/1)  
Students will submit a one-page proposal for the topic of their final paper. Instructor's evaluation will be based on project's originality, complexity, significance to the course's topic, appropriate scope, and research viability.
- 15% Annotated Bibliography (due on 3/17)  
Students will submit an annotated bibliography based on their research in the library and academic databases. At least two academic books and three academic articles should be included.
- 35% Final Paper (due on 4/21)  
Six to seven-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. (Graduate students will write a 12 to 15-page paper).

**Submission of Assignments:** All written assignments should be submitted at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Delays may incur in a grade penalty. Written assignments must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins when applicable. Any citations must be done in Chicago-style. 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 consult the Writing Studio with any questions about proper citations and paper formatting.

### **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>

<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 as there will be no recording of classes. Students are expected to have their video on while attending class meetings via Zoom. 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 events:

- Visiting Artist Lecture by Vesna Pavlović, February 9, 6:15pm.
- HESCAH Lecture by Maria Gough, "Drawing for the Revolution," February 18, 6pm.
- HESCAH Lecture by Suzanne Blier, "Picasso, Decay, and the Surrealist Colonial Gaze," March 18, 6pm.
- Suzanne Blier's master class, March 19 (details to be announced).
- Panel Discussion with Kiluanji Kia Henda, April 22, 11am-2pm (details to be announced).

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

**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.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit may be offered upon completion of additional assignments stipulated by the instructor. Extra credit assignments are always optional, and credit is granted at the instructor's discretion.

**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.

**For students registered in the face to face section:** In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.

- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

**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:**

Part I: “The Dilemma of the Ghost”:

- 1/11, 1/13, 1/20, 1/25
- **Note: 1/18 No Class, Martin Luther King Day**

Part II: “The Wretched of the Earth”

- 1/27, 2/1, 2/3, 2/8

Part III: “God’s Bits of Wood”

- 2/10, 2/15, 2/17, 2/22,
- **Note: 2/9, 6:15pm - Visiting Artist Lecture by Vesna Pavlović. Attendance Required**
- **Note: 2/18, 6pm - HESCAH Lecture by Maria Gough. Attendance Required**
- **Note: 2/24 No Class, Recharge and Research Break**

Part IV: “The Weapon of Theory”

- 3/1, 3/3, 3/8, 3/10, 3/15

Part V: “Freedom and Unity”

- 3/17, 3/22
- **Note: 3/18, 6pm - HESCAH Lecture, Suzanne Blier. Attendance Required**
- **Note: 3/19 - Master class with Suzanne Blier (more details tba). Attendance Required**
- **Note: 3/24 - No Class, Recharge and Research Break**

Part VI: “From Pushkin to Perestroika”

- 3/29

Part VII: “Images of a Revolution”

- 3/31, 4/5, 4/7

Part VIII: “Path of the Stars”

- 4/12, 4/14, 4/19, 4/21
- **Note: 4/22, 11am-2pm - Panel Discussion, Kiluanji Kia Henda. Attendance Required**

## 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. Contact: <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/>