

ART 3807C // Special Topics
The Politics of Representation in Contemporary Art and Photography
Syllabus

Tuesday/Thursday: 6.15—9.10pm (periods 11—E2)

Format: Hybrid Face to Face and online

Face to face: Fine Arts Building D, Room 329

Online Zoom link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95946112484?pwd=UVNKOTN0Y21paEpubyt5YytKMEFYdz09>

Instructor: Anthea Behm

Pronouns: she/her

Email: antheabehm@ufl.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 12.50—2.45pm and by appointment

Zoom link for Office hours: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6154087682>

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the politics of representation in Contemporary Art and Photography. Through seminar style format, students will discuss readings alongside the work of contemporary artists, and consider how artists from a variety of subject positions (across race, class, gender, sexuality and ability) represent themselves and others. Most importantly, students will also engage with these issues in their own artmaking through a series of studio assignments that respond to the seminar readings and discussion. These studio assignments will be viewed and discussed during online group critiques and individual meetings.

Course Objectives & Goals

The goal of this course is to develop critical thinking and the skills to create and speak about issues concerning current photographic production and related media. Students will engage a wide range of art historians, theorists, and artists through reading assignments and group discussions. Students will investigate formal and conceptual questions raised during the seminars through a number of studio-based projects. This will provide students with a framework for connecting research to the development of their own art practice. To further facilitate this, students will undertake a self-directed project that will be developed through individual meetings with the instructor. For the studio assignments, students are expected to explore new ways to work and experiment in their projects, and to present formally and conceptually rigorous work. An introduction to professional practice, including independent research and writing, will also form a component of the course.

Individual meetings

Individual meetings will be conducted throughout the semester. During these meetings students will present their research and work in progress. It is important that students show images/ objects/ sketches, etc. and not only discuss their ideas. During these meetings students will also discuss their plans and timeline for work. If these plans or ideas change, you must inform the instructor either through email or in person for approval. Failure to follow this procedure will affect the project grade.

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Assessment

Students taking this course will be evaluated through two elements:

(1) Studio Assignment [50% of grade]

Students self-directed studio assignment will be graded according to the level of engagement with the critical and conceptual goals of the project. Consistency of work, research efforts, and response to feedback will also be highly considered.

(2) Writing & Professional Practice Assignments [10% of final grade]

This component will be graded on level of engagement in the workshops, and presentations.

(3) Participation [40% of final grade]

Participation will be graded according to successful completion of reading assignments, input during seminar discussions and group critiques.

Please see assignment sheet for detailed information. Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each day they are past due. Please note, to receive your final grade you must upload a Portfolio of work completed for all assignments (including written, and documentation of studio work) on the Google drive by 5.00pm on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Please save videos as compressed .MOV (less than 250 MB) and images as high quality .JPG (less than 10 MB). Please see Assignment sheet for more details on the Portfolio.

Required Reading

Readings will be provided to students as PDFs. There are no required textbooks for this class.

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic & Assignment	Due Date
Week 1	Course Overview Assignment due: Student Presentations	
Week 2	Reading Seminar: Identity & Politics Assignment due: Artist Presentations	1/21
Week 3	Reading Seminar: Representation & Semiotics Assignment: Project 1 Group Critique	1/28
Week 4	Reading Seminar: Representation & Semiotics contin. Assignment: begin work on Project 2	
Week 5	Reading Seminar: Intersectionality Discussion: Looking at Contemporary Art Assignment: contin. Work on Project 2	
Week 6	Reading Seminar: Representing Others Discussion: Looking at Contemporary Art Assignment: contin. Work on Project 2	
Week 7	Assignment Due: Project 2 Project 2 Group Critique	2/23 & 2/25

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Week 8	Assignment Due: Project 3 Proposals Individual meetings	3/2
Week 9	Reading Seminar: Whiteness as racial construct Discussion: Looking at Contemporary Art Assignment: Artist Statement Workshop, pt 1	
Week 10	Reading Seminar: Feminism Discussion: Looking at Contemporary Art Assignment: work on Project 3	
Week 11	Reading Seminar: LGBTQ Discussion: Looking at Contemporary Art Assignment: work on Project 3	
Week 12	Assignment: Artist Statement Workshop, pt 2 Individual meetings	
Week 13	Individual meetings	
Week 14	Assignment Due: Project 3 Project 3 Group Critique	4/13 & 4/15
Week 15	Course Overview & Discussion Assignment Due: Final Artists Statement & Portfolio	4/20

Class Attendance

Students are required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving on time and with all materials and equipment necessary to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving without assigned materials may be counted absent on that date. Excused absences require legitimate reasons and documentation. In the case of an absence, students are asked to communicate this via email and in advance of class (unless extenuating circumstances prohibit doing so). At the discretion of the instructor, students who have more than three unexcused absences may receive a failing grade for the course. Additionally, a student's grade will be effected if they have an unexcused absence or do not present work on their designated critique day. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Grading Criteria

A: This grade is awarded for exceptional work that demonstrates critical thinking, a full realization of the ideas put forth in assignment, and outstanding engagement of both form and content; excellent amount of effort given to the class and assignments, with minimum lateness and absences; going beyond the basic course requirements through independent work and research; display a strong commitment to learning, being an active member of the class community, and growth as an artist and student.

B: This grade will be awarded for very good work that demonstrates a sound and competent realization of the ideas put forth in each assignment; excels in many areas but lacks one or more of the outstanding characteristics listed above.

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C: This grade will be awarded for well-presented, average work that demonstrates a fairly good attempt at grasping the expectations of each given assignment. This work lacks a competent, comprehensive understanding mentioned in 'B' above.

D: This grade is awarded for inadequate work-- extremely poor and/or half-finished work with no care or attention to the assignment. In addition, when someone has missed three or more classes, has failed to completed one or more assignments, or keep up to date with the studio-based syllabus.

E: When someone stops coming to class and stops communicating with instructor. This is a severe grade and is usually given in severe circumstances.

Grading Scale

A 95-100, A- 94-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-74, C- 73-70, D+ 69-67, D 66-64, D- 63-60, E 59-0

A: 4.0, A-: 3.67, B+:3.33, B:3.00, B-: 2.67, C+: 2.33, C: 2.00, C-: 1.67, D+: 1.33, D: 1.00, D-: .67

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

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

Health and Safety

<http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/>

Each student must complete a Health and Safety Student Waiver for this course. These forms will be turned in to the School of Art office.

Health and Safety specific to Photography

- There are many hazards associated with photographic materials. Many photographic processes produce toxic gases. The gases could be produced from baths or storage of chemicals.
- Developers are highly alkaline and moderately to highly toxic. They can cause eye and skin irritations and are also allergic sensitizers.
- Stop Baths: The Acetic Acid in Stop Baths can cause dermatitis and skin ulceration. It can also irritate the respiratory system.
- Ammonia is especially hazardous to the eyes and the mucous membranes.
- Iodine can cause hypersensitivity reaction and skin burns when contacting the skin.
- Intensifiers can contain Mercury, Cyanide, or Uranium. Can cause lung cancer over a long time of exposure.
- Hardeners often contain formaldehyde, which is poisonous, very irritating to the eyes, throat, and breathing passages. It can also cause dermatitis.

Diversity, Access, & Inclusion

Diversity, access, and inclusion are important parts of this class. We will likely discuss a number of sensitive and important topics here, including gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, class, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. I know that some of these discussions can be fraught, and I want to ask that we collectively make this a space in which everyone feels

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comfortable to express themselves, while remaining mindful of the impacts that your expressions may have on others. If at any point in this course an issue occurs, around these or other concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with me or contact another campus resource, such as the undergraduate advisor, Dana Myers. My door is always open. And if there is anything you would like me, or the rest of the class know about you, please do not hesitate to let me know. My preferred name and pronouns are Anthea/ she/ her.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Class Demeanor Policy

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Academic Honesty

The university's codes for honesty and conduct will be upheld. Full information is available at the links below.

Academic	Honesty:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty	
Honour Code:	http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php
Student Conduct:	http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

University Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662
University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100
352-392-1575
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

COVID Policies for Face to Face Section

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. 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

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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](#).