

ART & THEORY (ART 3892)**Credits: 3****Class Meeting Time/Location: Mondays Periods 8-10/ FAD111 (and other locations as needed)****Instructor: Dr. Craig Smith (email: csmith@arts.ufl.edu)****Office Hours/Location: Wednesdays Periods 7 and 8/ FAD 337 (by appointment)****Course Related Fees: \$10.00****Canvas URL: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/435260>****Course Description:**

Introduces the study of art theory, focusing on its applications to the analysis, contextualization, and production of art, film, and popular culture. (<https://one.ufl.edu/soc/>)

Course Topics:

- **MYTHOLOGIES**
- **QUEER PERFORMATIVITY**
- **POST-PUNK**
- **MEDIA ECOLOGIES**
- **MATERIALISM AND MIMESIS**
- **NATURE AND POLITICS**
- **CHALLENGE OF SPACE**
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Textbooks:

All required readings have been provided by the instructor and are uploaded to the course canvas page. Two readings will be selected by each student during the semester (one for the midterm, one for the final) and it is the responsibility of each student to find the resources for their selection. The instructor will assist where helpful as will the AFA Library or Smathers Library West staff.

Content Warning:

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. It is important that in a studio art or humanities course we do not shy away from engaging with materials that may be controversial or challenging. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are struggling with the course materials. In class, if you need to step away for a period of time as we are covering particular content, you may do so without penalty, but I ask that you remember that you are responsible for any information covered in your absence.

Class Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Grading:

Grades will be based on weekly participation, the completion of the readings, weekly presentations, visual research assignments/presentations, and midterm as well as final examination presentations:

- Weekly Reading Assignments/ Class Presentations (**8 @ 5 points per assignment = 40 pts**)
- Visual Research Assignments/Presentations and Uploads (**5 @ 5 points per assignment = 25 pts**)
- Midterm Examination/Presentation (self-selected reading assignment) = **15 pts**
- Final Examination/Presentation (self-selected reading assignment) = **20 pts**

A gradebook is available on the course canvas page. All grading will follow the UF grading guidelines available here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Accommodations:

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.

Online Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code.

Schedule:

August 23 – Course Introduction: Syllabus, Theory Outline, Add/Drop
Reading Assignment #1, R. Barthes *Mythologies* (Due Next Class)
Visual Research Assignment/Compositions and Creations #1 (Due Next Class)

MYTHOLOGIES

August 30 – Group Discussion Reading #1 / Individual Presentations Visual Research #1
Reading Assignment #2, K. Barad “Nature’s Queer Performativity” (Due Next Class)
Visual Research Assignment #2/Compositions and Creations (Due Next Class)

September 6 – No Class (Labor Day Holiday)

QUEER PERFORMATIVITY

September 13 – Group Discussion Reading #2 / Individual Presentations Visual Research #2
Reading Assignment #3 Fisher, Eshun, Butt “Lydia Lunch...” (Due Next Class)

POST-PUNK

September 20 – Group Discussion Reading #3 / Construction+Composition Presentations #1
Reading Assignment #4, Horst Stephenson Robinson “Media Ecologies” (Due Next Class)
Select Author/Subject from first four readings. (Due Next Class)

MEDIA ECOLOGIES

September 27 – Group Discussion Reading #4 / Construction+Composition Presentations #2
Reading Assignment #5 (Approved/Provided by Dr. Smith) (Due Oct 11)

October 4 – No In-Class Meeting (Construction+Composition#3 Online Upload by 6pm)
Please attend Zach Blas Visiting Artist Talk, 6pm Tue. Oct 12th
<https://zachblas.info/works/queer-technologies/>
Reading Assignment #5 (Due Next Class)
Review/Edit all VR, C+C for Midterm Presentation (Due Next Class)

October 11 – Midterm Examinations:
Individual Presentations (Reading #5/ Comprehensive VR, C+C)
Please attend Zach Blas Visiting Artist Talk, 6pm Tue. Oct 12th
<https://zachblas.info/works/queer-technologies/>

October 18 – Discussion and Assessment (Midterms)
Reading Assignment #6 G. Harman and R. Jackson “Materialism...” (Due Next Class)

Visual Research Assignment/Compositions and Creations #3 (Due Next Class)

MATERIALISM AND MIMESIS

October 25 – Group Discussion Reading #6 / Individual Presentations Visual Research #3
Reading Assignment #7 B. LaTour “Politics of Nature” (Due Next Class)
Visual Research Assignment/Compositions and Creations #4 (Due Next Class)

NATURE AND POLITICS

November 1 – Group Discussion Reading #7 / Individual Presentations Visual Research #4
Reading Assignment #8 M. Nieuwenhuis “The Challenge of Space...” (Due Next Class)

CHALLENGE OF SPACE

November 8 – Group Discussion Reading #8/ Individual Presentations C+C #4
Reading Assignment #9, M. DeLanda *War...Intelligent Machines* (Due Next Class)
Visual Research/Compositions and Creations #5 (Due Next Class)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

November 15 – Group Discussion Reading #9/ Individual Presentation Visual Research #5
Final Presentation Proposals (Due Next Class)

November 22 – Final Presentations Proposals Due (Online Upload by 6pm)/ Individual In-Class Meetings
Reading Assignment #10 (Selected Essay) (Due Next Class)
Final Presentation Development (Due Next Class)

November 29 – Final Presentations Rehearsal and Selected Essays Group Discussion
Final Presentation Development and Editing (Due Next Class)

December 6 – Final Presentations