

Why Look at Animals?

(ARH4930/ ARH 6917: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Modern Art)



Mary Sibande, *Let Slip the Dogs of War*, 2015.



Kiluanji Kia Henda, *In the Days of a Dark Safari #3*, 2017.

Mondays | Period 10 - 5:10 PM – 6:00 PM
Wednesdays | Period 9-10 – 4:05PM – 6:00PM

Location: FAC 201

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: ARH 2050 or ARH 2051 or instructor's permission.

Additional Course Fees: \$16.49 (ARH 6917: \$14.53)

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/436264>

Course Description: In 1977, John Berger raised a question that titled his famous essay “Why Look at Animals?” to which he concluded that “the look between animal and man... has been extinguished.” Twenty years later, Jacques Derrida is caught by surprise when he meets the gaze of his cat, an eye-to-eye encounter that led him to challenge what he saw as a blind spot in Western ontology. What did he see when staring his cat in the eye? This course will focus on the ways we look at animals and how we have responded when they look back. We will examine the place of animals in art, visual culture, and the politics of the gaze in human and nonhuman animal relations. Classes will be organized by the different contexts from which we see animals: the zoo, the movie theater, the art gallery, the academy, and more. The course places special emphasis on non-Western case studies and the postcolonial, sexual, and racial discourses shaping our relationship to nonhuman animals. Non-art and art history majors are welcomed.

Course Objectives:

- Situate contemporary art and visual culture within major philosophical debates on human-nonhuman animal difference through in-class writing assignments.
- Examine Animal Studies methodologies and their significance to contemporary artistic practice through close reading in class.
- Develop critical engagement with essential concepts in Animal Studies and their application to the analysis of works of art through terminology quizzes.
- Critically analyze the racial, sexual, and colonial histories of animal representation in artworks and films through weekly assigned films and class discussions.
- Qualify the visual and discursive politics towards animals under diverse media and institutional contexts through cross-disciplinary readings.
- Enhance oral argumentation skills through participation in discussion-centered classes.
- Nuance visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through a take-home writing assignment.

Readings and films: Readings and will be accessible on Course Reserves or Canvas with the exception of the following required and recommended texts that can be purchased or borrowed from the library:

- Required: Coetzee, J. M. *The Lives of Animals*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.
- Recommended: Ramos, Filipa (ed.). *Animas*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2016.
Gruen, Lori (ed.). *Critical Terms for Animal Studies*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018.
- Films: Films, alongside a selection of optional books and articles, will available on Canvas or the Fine Art Library's Course Reserves. Alternatively, students can use paid streaming services to watch films from their personal devices at their discretion.

Requirements and Grading

Assessments:

- 15%, Attendance and Participation (throughout the semester)
For a full grade in this section, participation in class is essential. Please notice that full attendance without ongoing participation will result in a B- for this grade component.
- 20% Critical Terminology Quiz 1 & 2 (10% each, 9/22 and 11/3)
Students are expected to define and critically discuss key concepts from a list distributed in advance of each quiz.
- 40%, In-Class Writing Assignment I & II (20% each, 10/13 and 11/17)
For each In-Class Writing Assignment, a list of essay questions will be distributed a week before the exam. One of such questions will be part of the assignment.
- 25% Take-Home Writing Assignment (due on 12/10)
Students will write an essay in response to a question distributed by the instructor.

Graduate students: In lieu of the In-Class Writing Assignment II and the Take-Home Writing Assignment, all graduate students will complete a final project. MA and PhD students will produce a Final Research Paper (minimum of 10 pages in length). MFA students have the option to submit documentation of studio research expanding on content related to the themes of the course, complete with an artist's statement. Any material created or done on assignment for another course will not count. Graduate students must discuss their final projects with the instructor in advance. Further details will be discussed in class.

Submission of Assignments: All written assignments should be submitted through Canvas. 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 should follow The Chicago Manual of 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 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>

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: In-person 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.

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.

Electronic devices: The use of computers, tablets, or phones is not allowed during classes without permission from the instructor.

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/] 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: Why Look at Animals? Introduction

Week 2: Academy

Week 3: Academy II

- **Note: 1/6 - No Class, Labor Day**

Week 4: Face-to-Face

Week 5: Gallery

- 9/22 - Critical Terminology Quiz I

Week 6: Zoo

Week 7: Wilderness

Week 8: Movie Theater

- 10/13 - In-Class Writing Assignment I

Week 9: Factory

Week 10: Lab

Week 11: State

- 11/3 - Critical Terminology Quiz II

Week 12: Dining Table

Week 13: Apocalypse

- 11/17- In-Class Writing Assignment II

Week 14: Gallery II

- **Note: 11/24 No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15: Home

Week 16: Cloud

- 12/10 – Take-Home Assignment Due

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. 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. 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/>

COVID Statement

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are recommended to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are highly encouraged to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - 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.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - 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.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.