

Modern African Art

(ARH 4930 / ARH 6918: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Non-Western Art)



Image: Malangatana Valente Ngwenya, *The Girls' Secret*, 1960.



Image: Bertina Lopes, *In Memory of My Son Virgilio*, 1992.

Mondays | Period 6 and 7: 12:50 AM – 2:45 AM
Wednesdays | Period 7: 1:55 – 2:45 AM

Location: FAC 0201

Credits: 3

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

Additional Course Fees: \$16.49 (ARH 6918: \$14.53)

Instructor: Álvaro Luís Lima

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

Office Hours: Mondays | Period 11: 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM and by appointment

Course Canvas Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/436263>

Course Description: It is widely known that modernists from around the world have searched for inspiration in African art, but how have African artists engaged with modernity? This course will provide an overview of the major themes shaping modern art from Africa. It will begin by analyzing the impact of primitivism in the continent's artistic practices and conclude by looking at the farewell to modernity with the rise of the "global contemporary." The search for liberation from colonialism and imperialism was a particularly fertile ground for the development of modern art on the continent, which is why the period from the end of colonial regimes through the Cold War will be given special emphasis. Topics will include figures, movements and practices from areas as diverse as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Sudan.

Course Objectives:

- Familiarity with methodological challenges in researching modern African art through class readings, discussion, and writing assignments.
- Build critical analysis of readings from various periods in modern African art historiography.
- Attribute major artistic movements and figures to the national histories in which they appear while expanding skills on identifying pan-African connections in the development of modern art through readings and diagram assignment.
- Develop ability to engage with modern African art as producer of political, postcolonial, feminist, queer, and aesthetic theories through readings and class discussions.
- Develop oral presentation skills by managing a class discussion.
- Expand visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through short writing assignments.

Required Readings: Required readings will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and should be done in preparation for classes. Please, bring a hard copy of the reading to class to allow optimal participation. Input in class discussion of the readings will be an essential part of the participation grade.

Optional Readings: A selection of relevant books have been placed on course reserves at the Architecture & Fine Arts Library and can be consulted to complement required readings.

Requirements and Grading

Assessments:

- 10%: Attendance and Participation
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.
- 10%: African Map Quiz (9/8)
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 30%: In-Class Writing Assignment I & II (15% each, 9/27 and 11/1)
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.
- 20% Diagram (due on 11/17)
Students are expected to construct a diagram that will show significant connections between the various artists, movements, and themes discussed throughout the semester. The diagram can be created digitally (e.g. Cooogle) or by hand, but should be handed in as a hard copy. Further guidelines will be discussed in class with the instructor.
- 30%: Take-home Writing Assignment (due on 12/10)
Students will write an essay in response to a question distributed by the instructor.

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. Class may meet at selected dates at the Harn Museum of Art. Dates of museum visit will be announced in advanced and attendance is required.

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: Introduction: Modernity and Primitivism

Week 2: Modernity: Between Colonial and Postcolonial

Week 3: Mozambique

- **Note: 1/6 - No Class, Labor Day**
- 9/8 - African Map Quiz

Week 4: Mozambique II

Week 5: Mozambique III and Uganda

Week 6: Nigeria

- 9/27 - In-Class Writing Assignment I

Week 7: Nigeria II

Week 8: Sudan

Week 9: Sudan II

Week 10: Congo-Brazzaville and Senegal

Week 11: Senegal II

- 11/1 – In-Class Writing Assignment II

Week 12: Senegal III and Ethiopia

Week 13: Ethiopia II

Week 14: South Africa

- 11/17– Diagram Assignment Due
- **Note: 11/24 No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15: South Africa II

Week 16: The Global Contemporary

- 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.