

Wednesday, 11.45—2.45pm (periods 5—7)

Fine Arts Building D, Room 329

Instructor: Anthea Behm

Pronouns: she/her

Email: antheabehm@ufl.edu

Office hours via Zoom: Mondays, 2.00—3.00pm and by appointment

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

Course Delivery: Face to face

Course Description

In this course students will learn the semiotic method of “reading” an artwork. Very broadly, semiotics is the study of representation through signs. This method will facilitate students understanding of how meaning is generated in an artwork by analyzing work on denotative (descriptive) and connotative (broader cultural concepts) levels. Using this method, students will read the denotative level of all components of an artwork including the frame, scale, and architecture surrounding the work (or non-mimetic), as well as the content and material of the artwork itself (mimetic). Following a reading at this descriptive level, students will then use this to form a connotative reading. Once this method of reading an artwork is established, it will be utilized in group critiques of individual student work. There will also be a professional practice component of the course.

Course Objectives & Goals

The goal of this course is to develop a working understanding of semiotics and the semiotic method of reading an artwork. Students will engage semiotic theory through reading assignments, a lecture component, student reading group presentations, and discussions. Students will learn to apply a semiotic analysis to artworks through looking at and discussing work at the Harn Museum, as well as the work of their peers. Students will have their work critiqued twice during the semester, and will be expected to maintain their research and development during this time. Through the professional practice component, students will develop their writing skills by applying the semiotic method and related strategies.

Assessment

Students taking this course will be evaluated through three elements:

(1) **Studio Practice** [25% of grade]

Students will be expected to maintain their independent research and studio practice throughout the semester and will be graded according to the development of their work during the semester in accordance with class feedback and discussion.

(2) **Writing Workshop Assignments** [15% of final grade]

This component will be graded on level of engagement in the workshops, as well as development during the workshops.

(3) **Participation** [60% of final grade]

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Participation will be graded according to successful completion of reading assignments, student reading group presentations, as well as community engagement during discussions and group critiques.

Please see assignment sheet for detailed information on assignments. 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 no later than 5.00pm on Friday, December 10, 2021. Please save videos as compressed .MOV (less than 250 MB) and images as high quality .JPG (less than 10 MB).

Required Reading

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

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic & Assignment
Week 1	Course Overview
Week 2	Assignment due: Readings
Week 3	Lecture: Overview of texts
Week 4	Assignment due: Student Presentation // Reading Group 1 & 2
Week 5	Assignment due: Student Presentation // Reading Group 3
Week 6	Field trip: Harn Museum
Week 7	Student Critique 1 & 2
Week 8	Student Critique 3 & 4
Week 9	Student Critique 5 & 6
Week 10	Artist Statement Writing Workshop 1
Week 12	Artist Statement Writing Workshop 2
Week 13	Thesis Writing Workshop 1
Week 14	Thesis Writing Workshop 2
Week 15	Final Critiques
Week 16	Final Critiques

Class Attendance

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/>

Students are required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving on time and with all materials necessary to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving without assigned materials may be counted absent on that date. Three unexcused late arrivals may be recorded as one absence. 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 may be effected if they have unexcused absences or do not present work on their designated critique day.

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Excused absences, include being withheld from campus due to COVID, and require documentation such as a doctor's note. 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. Make up work will be made available for all students who have excused absences.

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 or 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.

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 complete 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

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

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 in 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>

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.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COVID information

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place 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.uflhealth.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 expected 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.

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

Campus Resources // Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care. If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in

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distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Campus Resources // Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).