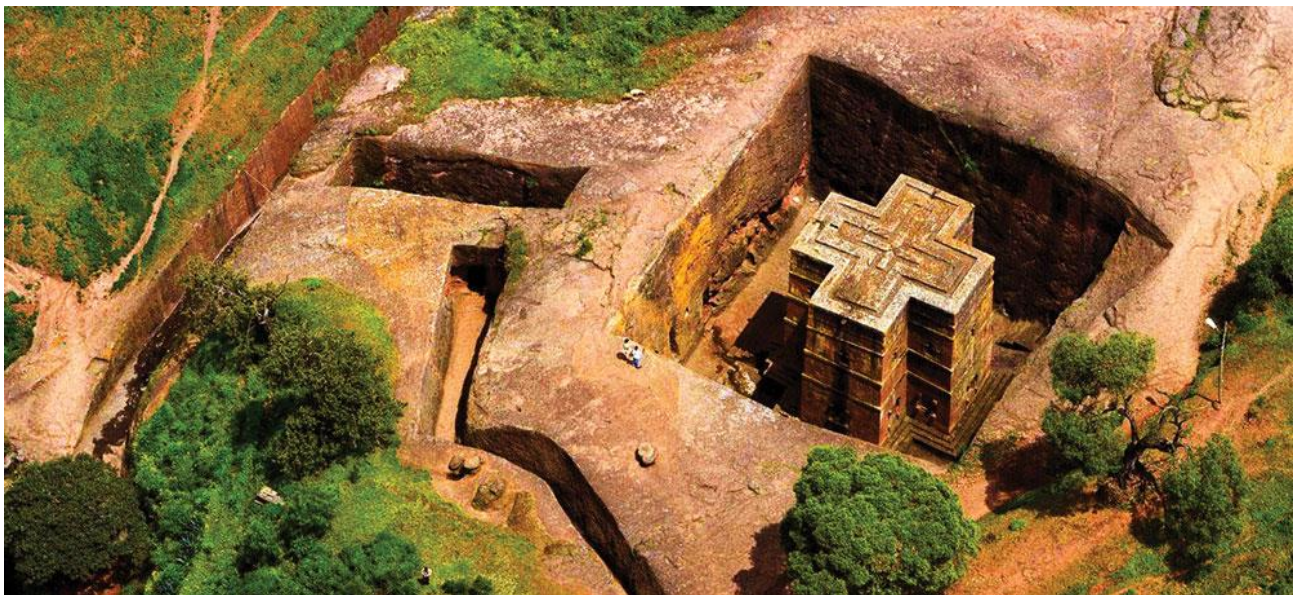


**Introduction to African Art**  
(ARH 2930)



Tabita Rezaire, *Deep Down Tidal* (still), 2017.



Church of Saint George, Lalibela, Ethiopia, 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Mondays | Period 11: 6:15 PM - 7:05 PM**  
**Wednesdays | Period 11 and E1: 6:15 - 8:10 PM**

**Location:** FAC 0201

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Additional Course Fees:** \$12.94

**Instructor:** Dr. Álvaro Luís Lima

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

**Office Hours:** Mondays | Period E1: 7:20 PM – 8:10 PM and by appointment

**Course Canvas Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/452701>

**Course Description:** This course introduces African art by highlighting its diversity and complexity. It examines historical and methodological questions to contextualize works of art from across the continent ranging from as early as Ancient Egypt, seen in the eyes of Cheikh Anta Diop, to the Afrofuturism of contemporary artists such as Tabita Rezaire. The course is organized in four parts to situate the broad scope of content. Part one questions what constitutes an African identity. Part two considers the location of Africa by looking at the way in which diasporic cultures, North Africa, and Europe, have been essential to the history of African art. Part three shows the role of African art traditions beyond the museum. The course concludes with part four, which looks at modern and contemporary liberation struggles and their aftermath. Non-majors are welcome.

**Course Objectives:**

- Familiarity with foundational methodology of African art history through class readings, discussion, and writing assignments.
- Attribute major artistic traditions to geographical regions of Africa through quiz and class lectures.
- Expand skills to interpret African art objects from diverse cultural backgrounds and functions by class discussion, and readings.
- Develop oral presentation and research skills by delivering a presentation on an art object.
- 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  
In order to get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but to actively engage in discussions.
- 10%: African map quiz (1/19)  
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 30%: Canvas writing assignment (15% each, 2/9 and 3/23)  
A list of essay questions will be distributed for preparation in advance of the exam. One of such questions will be part of the writing assignment to be completed on Canvas.
- 15%: Object Research and Presentation Plan (3/16)  
In collaboration with an assigned group of classmates, students will submit a detailed report and plan for presentation on an assigned object from the museum's African collection.
- 15%: 10 minutes presentation a work of art (4/11, 12:30-1:30pm at the Harn)  
Students will present and answer questions to the Harn's docents on their assigned work of art from the museum's African collection.
- 20%: Final writing assignment (4/22)  
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](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 and exams 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>

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>% Equivalency</b>	<b>GPA Equivalency</b>
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/](http://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:**

### **Part I: Who?**

1/5: Introduction

1/10: The Politics of Authenticity

1/12: Hybridity

1/17: **No Class, Martin Luther King Day**

1/19: Problems Defining African Art

1/24: Roots of African Cultures?

1/26: Négritude

1/31 Queerness

2/2: Queerness II

### **Part II: Where?**

2/7: Primitivism

2/9: Primitivism II

2/14: Orientalism

2/16: Diaspora

2/21: Mami Wata

2/23: Yoruba

2/28: Yoruba II

### **Part III: What?**

3/2 Ethiopia

**3/7: No Class, Spring Break**

**3/9: No Class, Spring Break**

3/14: Kongo

3/16: Kongo and Benin

3/21: Benin II

3/23: Ilé-Ife

3/28: Adobe Architecture

3/30: Adobe Architecture II

Part IV: When?

4/4: Baule

4/6: Malian Photography

**4/11: Class Meets at the Harn from 12:30-1:30pm**

4/13: Postcolonial Modernism

4/18: Resistance against Apartheid

4/20: Afrofuturism

## **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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://coronavirus.UFHealth.org) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](https://coronavirus.ufl.edu) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.