

**University of Florida (School of Art and Art History)**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**ART4883C - Making and Meaning**

Instructor: Emmanuel Manu Opoku  
Semester/Year: Spring 2022  
Credit Hours: 3  
Email Address: [opoku.e@ufl.edu](mailto:opoku.e@ufl.edu)  
Course Hours: M, W | Period 2 - 4 (8:30 AM - 11:30 AM)  
Location: Online (100%)  
Office Hours: Warphaus by Appointment Only

### **Course Description**

This is a studio course that will explore the creation of art in combination with non-arts related research. Inquiry surrounding the making of art and how it can inform meaning and conversely, how meaning can inform making, will stimulate ideation and production. Engaging in an active studio practice, students will develop a deeper connection with the work they create and the underlying significance of their motives and intentions. Students will work both as individuals and collaboratively. Media utilized is dependent on students' area of interest, however, dialogue will surround the contextualization of media and what materials best inform the intentions of the artist. Comprehensive research and ideation will be documented in a sketchbook daily. Regular critiques, class discussions, lectures and presentations will play a significant role in the class experience. The most part of the class will be dedicated to developing individual projects and professional development.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

- Students would develop a consistent research practice based on their desired themes.
- Students would develop critical conceptual vocabularies through reading to enhance the aesthetic significance of their projects.
- Students would be introduced to multiple exhibition strategies in the context of contemporary art.
- Students will investigate the processes of art appreciation through the realization of relationship between artist and spectator.
- Students will develop a rigorous studio practice and respond to contemporary visual arts.

### **Course Requirements/ Activities/ Assignments**

- **Projects:** Students will complete three projects during the Spring semester. Critiques will occur virtually using PowerPoint. During critique, student would show a documentation of the process, artist statement and final images of the project.

- **Work In Progress Presentation:** There would be multiple periods allotted to work in progress discussion during the semester. Students would be expected to show a development of the project with evidence of research and investment of time toward their practices. Students should note that their level of ambition regarding the project would be examined, and points would be awarded during the work in progress presentation. Student should prepare to share screen and discuss their ideas for feedback from peers and the instructor.
- **IDEA book:** Students will maintain a sketch/lab book of all research: class notes, sketches, images, ideation, creative writings, etc. This is a daily activity to be conducted throughout the semester. Sketchbook pages would be checked during work in progress presentation.
- **Critique And Interpretation of Artist's Work:** Each student would be assigned an artist to research and make a PowerPoint presentation based on the artist's practices. Student is expected to mostly use their own words to critique the artist's work during the presentation.
- **Reading Discussions/ Reflection:** Various readings will be assigned throughout the semester and discussed as a group. Student should be prepared to contribute to the reading discussion and listen. Groups will be assigned to lead the reading discussion throughout the semester. Student would submit reading reflection on canvas prior to the discussion of the reading.
- **Professional Portfolio:** Students will present their work and research from the semester in a professional digital portfolio (to include an artist CV with website, an artist statement, and images of work). Student will develop an artist statement that summarizes all the three projects that were made throughout the semester.
- **Sources Presentation/ Artist Talk:** Through readings, research, and making works, at the end of the semester students will develop a -15-minute artist talk / presentation regarding their artwork, research concepts, inspirations, etc. The presentation should fully describe and communicate the student's creative identity.

## Required Text

No textbook is required for this course. Electronic copies of readings will be provided.

## Due Dates

Project 1: February 2nd

Project 2: March 16th

Project 3: April 13th

Portfolio Submission and Artist Talk/Presentation: April 18th

## Evaluation

You will be evaluated by the critical development of your artistic practice throughout the semester in terms of ambition, conceptual development, research, and personal investment. Attendance and overall participation would contribute to the final grade.

Activities/Assignments/Projects	Points
Project 1	15 Points
Project 2	15 Points
Project 3	20 Points
Work In Progress Presentation/Attendance/Participation	15 Points
Sketchbook and Ideation	10 Points
Reading Assignments and Discussions	10 Points
Artist Talk and Professional Portfolio	10 Points
Critique and Interpretation of Artworks/Presentation	5 Points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 Points</b>

## Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100 - 94	93 - 90	89 - 87	86 - 84	83 - 80	79 - 77	76 - 74	73 - 70	69 - 67	66 - 64	63 - 60	59

(Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements)

UF Grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## Attendance and Assignment Policy

Critiques are necessary and beneficial not only for getting feedback on one's own work, but just as importantly for learning how to look, discuss, and articulate ideas relating to the artwork of your peers. Work should be finished and submitted on canvas before critique. Any work turned in late may not receive full credit. Student should create work specifically for this course. Submitting projects to more than one studio course is not allowed. Please follow this link for more information about attendance policy.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## Academic Honesty Policy

The course will follow the University's honesty policy found on-line at

<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty>

All students are required to abide by the academic honesty guidelines, which have been accepted by the University of Florida.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this document to the instructor. The instructor will make appropriate accommodations for any student with a disability. The Dean of Students Office can be contacted at:

352-392-1261. Information is also available on their website, at

[https://dso.ufl.edu/areas\\_services/a-z\\_services/](https://dso.ufl.edu/areas_services/a-z_services/)  
<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/>

Please speak with the instructor about any concerns.

## **Health & Safety Guidelines**

The School of Art + Art History Health and Safety Policy handbook provides policy and training for health and safety. Students must follow handbook policies and receive proper training. Please make yourself familiar with the SA+AH Health and Safety Program at:

[https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saah\\_health\\_and\\_safety\\_handbook\\_2021.pdf](https://arts.ufl.edu/site/assets/files/37319/saah_health_and_safety_handbook_2021.pdf)

## **University Counseling Services**

352-392-1575 <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> The UF Counseling Center offers counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns.

**Student Healthcare Center** <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For medical emergencies call 911.

352-392-1161 for urgent after-hours care.

352-392-1171 for after-hours mental health assistance.

## **Safety and Security**

In an emergency call 911.

University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> 3 52-392-1111