

ARH 2510 - Introduction to African Art Spring 2024
Monday 9:35 AM - 11:30 AM | Period 3 - 4 School of Art History
Wednesday 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM | Period 4 College of the Arts
FAC 201 University of Florida
Professor Allison Moore TA Vivian Lantow
Email: al.moore@ufl.edu Email: vilantow@ufl.edu
Office: FAC 121TA
Office Hours: M 2-4 PM, W 3-5 PM & by appointment
Final Exam: 4/30/2024 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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 to the golden Middle Ages of Timbuktu, from masquerade societies and performances to colonial-era art schools, from portrait photography and reportage to biennials and the Afrofuturism of contemporary artists such as Wangechi Mutu. The course proceeds chronologically and regionally, emphasizing themes of continuity and change across the continent.

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.

Required Textbook:

Suzanne Preston Blier, *The History of African Art*. Thames & Hudson, 2023. You will need to acquire this book; it is affordable and highly useful. The textbook will be placed on Reserve in the art library, along with several other books pertinent to the study of African art. Other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

Course Requirements & Grading:

Attendance & Participation	15%	
Map Quiz	10%	Wednesday, January 17 th , in class
Midterm Exam	25%	Wednesday, March 6 th , in class
Research Essay & Presentation	25%	Monday, April 22 nd , in class
Final Exam	25%	Tuesday, April 30, 10 AM -12 PM

Completion of all assignments and exams is necessary to pass the course. Any grade of C- or below will not count toward general education or major requirements.

Attendance, Participation, Due Dates:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken at the start of class. Students are permitted only **three (3) unexcused absences**. Except in extenuating circumstances, more than three unexcused absences will affect your final course grade. The instructor may opt to **drop your final grade a half-step for every additional unexcused absence** (B to B-, B- to C, etc.). Absences that are incurred as a consequence of illness, religious observance, or family emergency will be excused with an official doctor's note or written statement, although supplemental assignments may be assigned in order to help keep up with the material and to make up for lost class participation. **Unexcused late arrivals and early departures of 15 minutes or more will count as an absence.**

Active participation is required for this course and **will be factored into your final grade**. Active participation means being engaged during lecture, coming to section having completed all the readings and being ready to discuss them (consulting images, identifying puzzling aspects of the texts, highlighting passages for analysis, raising questions for discussion), and being respectful of your professor and peers.

Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. **Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for every twenty-four hours past their due date.** Any extensions or make-up work due to an excused absence must be coordinated with the instructor. The provision of any make up exam is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments and Exams:

Participation will be particularly noted in discussion of articles. Articles will be posted on Canvas and it is expected that students will have come to class well-prepared. Reading the article includes highlighting the argument and key passages, looking up unfamiliar terms and concepts, and having an opinion about the art history methodologies used by the writer.

Research Essay (1000 wc). Due Monday April 22. This will involve research on an African artwork in the collection of the Harn Museum of Art. You will also make a short presentation on your object in class.

Exams: The midterm and the final will require students to memorize works of art and be able to write several sentences about them, as well as essays about artistic developments, in class. Geography and historical awareness, as well as conceptual and aesthetic concerns will be included. Tests will be based on the textbook readings and Powerpoints posted on Canvas that have been discussed in class.

Grading Scale:

A	94 and above
A-	90-93

B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E, I, NG, WF	59 and below

Current UF grading policies for assigning grade points: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Class Demeanor & Required Materials:

Students should come to class ready to learn. Computers and tablets are permitted ONLY for note taking. **Cell phones should be turned off and packed away for the duration of class. Inappropriate usage of devices will result in a deduction of the participation grade.** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom setting that is conducive to learning. Be aware that you are not the only person who can see your screen. Respect your classmates and the learning environment by not offering a distraction. **The professor reserves the right to disallow laptops and require paper notebooks and pens if computer are used for surfing or distraction.**

Email:

Announcements about the class will be sent out over email or through the Canvas Announcements feature. Please check your UF email regularly. If you send the professor emails, please do so from your official UF account (rather than through Canvas) and practice email etiquette and courtesy when messaging (write a clear subject line, include a salutation and closing, address your instructor as “Professor” or “Dr.,” etc.). For more information on email etiquette, see the guide from Inside Higher Education: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emailsessay>

COURSE SCHEDULE

***Readings will be due on the day they are listed.**

***Several Monday lectures will be held at the Harn Museum. Time will be allotted for the commute.**

***Professor Emeritus Robin Poynor will give a guest lecture on Yoruba art.**

M Jan 8 Introduction. Definitions of Africa. Difference in African art.
Read in class: Masquerade Basics <https://smarthistory.org/masquerade-basics/>

W Jan 10 Read Blier, Introduction & Ch 1 “Engaging African Art: An Overview”

M Jan 15 no class – holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
W Jan 17 Ancient Arts. Blier, Ch. 2 ***Map Quiz**

M Jan 22 Middle Ages, Ile-Ife
W Jan 24 Middle Ages, Djenne & Timbuktu

M Jan 29 Middle Ages, Eastern, Southern, Central Africa
W Jan 31 Early Modern, Kongo, Sierra Leone, Benin

M Feb 5 Early Modern, Dahomey, Yoruba, Asante
W Feb 7 Early Modern, Mali, Morocco, Northern Nigeria

M Feb 12 Historic Legacies, Broader Congo Basin
W Feb 14 Historic Legacies, Niger-Benue area of Nigeria

M Feb 19 Historic Legacies, Mali (Bamana, Senufo, Dogon)
W Feb 21 Modernism & Colonial Era, Morocco

M March 4 Modernism & Colonial Era, Sudan, & Midterm Review
W March 6 **Midterm Exam**

Spring Break

M March 18 Modernism: Mali
W March 20 Photography & Contemporary Art: Mali

M March 25 Photography: South Africa
W March 27 Contemporary Art: South Africa

M April 1 Contemporary Art: Senegal, Dak'Art, Benin
W April 3 Contemporary Art: Nigeria

M April 8 Contemporary Art in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya
W April 10 Contemporary Art in The Maghreb

M April 15 Afrofuturism
W April 17 Diaspora

M April 22 Object Presentations Due
W April 24 Review for Final

Final Exam: Tuesday, April 30 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/> 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.

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

Academic Honesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/> to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Health and Wellness: Campus Resources

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 <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> 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: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: <https://ufhealth.org/locations/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.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/> or call 352-273-4450.

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. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. <https://uflib.ufl.edu/>

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more info: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>

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 guest 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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.