

ARH4471: Late Twentieth-Century Art
School of Art + Art History, University of Florida
Fall 2024

Instructor: Professor Douglas Gabriel
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Class Periods

Mondays: Period 7 (1:55 PM – 2:45 PM)

Wednesdays: Periods 6–7 (12:50 PM – 2:45 PM)

Room: FAC 0201
Office: FAC 119-B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:55 PM – 3:50 PM + additional appointments available via PickTime scheduler (link to be provided via email)

Course Description

This course tracks developments in contemporary art from roughly the 1960s to the early 2000s. We will trace the proliferation of significant artistic strategies and tactics not only throughout Euro-North American contexts, but also across the globe. Key themes will include the rejection of meta-narratives and a turn toward the critique of such concepts as originality, truth, and progress. Key events—from the Vietnam War to the HIV/AIDS crisis and the September 11 attacks—will be analyzed as social and political contexts inextricable from the artworks we study.

Objectives

- To identify major forms, actors, and episodes in the history of contemporary art
- To describe contemporary artworks both formally and historically
- To comprehend different approaches to and definitions of art in the contemporary era
- To understand artworks as objects that not only reflect, but also produce history
- To develop skills of close reading, visual analysis, active listening, and engaged discussion

Course Materials: All readings will be provided as PDF files.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance: 20%
Response Posts: 15%
Discussion Points/Questions: 10%
Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Exhibition Review: 15%

Please note: 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	94 and above	4.00
A-	90 to 93	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

Attendance Policy

Because of the structure of this course and the teaching methods utilized, attendance is mandatory. However, students who need to miss class, and who consult with the professor, will be given the opportunity (and ample time) to make up all missed classes. It is the student's responsibility to initiate communication with the professor about how they might do so, as the make-up assignments will vary depending on the topic of and activities incorporated into a given class.

This policy is consistent with the stipulations provided in the University of Florida's guidelines on attendance policies. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Response Posts:

Students should submit short 1-2 paragraph response posts for **ten** of the twenty regular lectures on the schedule below. These are to be done within 48 hours following a given lecture. These should not be summaries of the lecture content but personal responses to the artworks we looked at and the ideas that emerged in our discussion. They might also draw connections between the material we studied and other contexts, fields, or experiences that spring to mind.

In lieu of these standard response posts, throughout the semester there will also be optional lectures and gallery talks that students can choose to attend and write a short response to. Each response of this type will count for *two* of the required ten response posts.

Discussion Points / Questions

For classes that have required readings or film screenings to be completed before class, students should prepare (and post to Canvas) 3–5 discussion points or questions related to the material. These will help guide our discussion in class. Please post these by 12:00 PM (noon) the day of a given class.

Exhibition Review

Instead of a final research paper, students will write a 5–7 page (double-spaced) exhibition review after visiting the Gary R. Libby University Gallery to see an exhibition of work by the artist Eduardo Abaroa. The exhibition opens on November 15, 2024. Details on how to structure an exhibition review will be covered in class. Students can expect to make connections between the work on view and different strategies, theories, and critical models discussed throughout the course.

Communication: All communication for this course will be conducted via the UF email platform, so please check your account regularly.

Schedule

Monday, August 26: **Introduction: “Modern” and “Contemporary”—What Is the Difference?**

Wednesday, August 28: **The Politics of Pop Art**

Monday, September 2: **Labor Day (No Class)**

Wednesday, September 4: **The Black Mountain College After-Effect**

Monday, September 9: **Leaping into the Void: Nouveau Réalisme**

Wednesday, September 11: **Instructions for Use: Happenings + Fluxus**

Monday, September 16: **Op Art and Psychedelic Design(s)**

Wednesday, September 18: **Presence Is Grace: Minimalism and Post-Minimalism**

Monday, September 23: **Spectacular 1968: The Situationist International**

OPTIONAL: Tuesday, September 24: Lecture by contemporary Mexican artist Abraham CruzVillegas on campus (details TBA)

Wednesday, September 25: Art and the Vietnam War + Conceptual Art

Monday, September 30: Performance and Body Art

Wednesday, October 2: The Frontlines of Feminism

Monday, October 7: Earthworks

Wednesday, October 9: [Visit to the Harn Museum of Art](#)

Monday, October 14: Take-Home Midterm **Due by Sunday, October 20 at 11:59 PM*

Wednesday, October 16: [Visit to three university gallery spaces with Director Jesús Fuenmayor to see work by Laercio Redondo \(Brazil\) and Birger Lipinski \(Sweden\)](#)

Monday, October 21: Art and the HIV/AIDS Crisis

Wednesday, October 23: Postmodernism

OPTIONAL: Thursday, October 24: Virtual lecture by Laercio Redondo and Birger Lipinski (details TBA)

Monday, October 28: Institutional Critique

Wednesday, October 30: Graffiti and Outsider Art

Monday, November 4: Opening the Iron Curtain: Post-Socialist Art

Wednesday, November 6: The Culture Wars of the Late 1980s and 1990s

Monday, November 11: [Veterans Day \(No Class\)](#)

Wednesday, November 13: Relational Aesthetics and Participatory Art

Monday, November 18: “Warhol’s Children”: The Bowery School

Wednesday, November 20: Para-Fiction vs. Post-Truth

Monday, November 25: [Thanksgiving Break \(No Class\)](#)

Wednesday, November 27: [Thanksgiving Break \(No Class\)](#)

Monday, December 2: Open Ends: Provisional Conclusions on the Contemporary

Wednesday, December 4: Review for Final Exam + Exhibition Review Tutorial

**The final (take-home) exam will be circulated after class on December 6. Students will have until December 12, at 11:59 PM to submit the exam and exhibition review.*

Additional Information and Resources:

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Florida rests on the traditional lands of the Potano, Timucua, and Seminole peoples, territories which later had long ties with the Miccosukee and Mascogo peoples as well. As one of the 52 land-grab universities in the United States, the University of Florida has benefited from the forced cession and sale of 90,226 acres of Indigenous lands from 121 Tribal Nations under the Morrill Act of 1862.

Please learn more at the Land-Grab Universities Project and Native Land Digital:

<https://www.landgrabu.org/universities/university-of-florida>

<https://native-land.ca/>

As faculty, I recognize and respect these Indigenous communities past, present, and future, and honor the ongoing important work of dismantling settler colonialism.

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting:

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>.

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.

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/publicresults/>.

University of Florida Student Honor Code

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.’*”

In addition to The Honor Pledge, students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Student Honor and Conduct Codes, both of which are available in full here:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/studenthonor-code-student-conduct-code/>

UF’s policies regarding academic honesty, the Honor Code, and the Conduct Code will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism, in part or in full, will be grounds for failing the course.