

Modern African Art

(ARH 4930 / ARH 6919: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Modern Art)



Image: Malangatana Valente Ngwenya, *The Girls' Secret*, 1960.



Image: Bertina Lopes, *In Memory of My Son Virgilio*, 1992.

Tuesdays | Period 5: 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM
Thursdays | Period 5-6: 11:45 – 1:40 PM

Location: FAC 0201

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: ARH 2050 or ARH 2051

Instructor: Álvaro Luís Lima

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays | Period 11: 6:15 PM – 7:05 PM and by appointment

Course Canvas Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/515443>

Course Description: It is widely known that modernists from around the world have searched for inspiration in African art, but how have African artists engaged with modernity? This course will provide an overview of the major themes shaping modern art from Africa. It will begin by analyzing the impact of primitivism in the continent's artistic practices and conclude by assessing the farewell to modernity with the rise of the "global contemporary." The search for liberation from colonialism and imperialism was a particularly fertile ground for the development of modern art on the continent, which is why the period from the end of colonial regimes through the Cold War will be given special emphasis. Topics will include figures, movements and practices from areas as diverse as Algeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Sudan.

Course Objectives:

- Build critical analysis of major movements, figures, and debates in modern African art.
- Familiarity with methodologies in modern African art history through class readings, discussion, and writing assignments.
- Attribute major artistic movements and figures to national contexts while expanding skills on identifying pan-African connections in the development of modern art through readings and quizzes.
- Develop ability to engage with modern African art as producer of political and aesthetic theories through readings and class discussions.
- Develop oral argumentation skills through class discussion.
- Expand visual literacy by class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish skills in writing about art through 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:

Standard track

- 10%: African map quiz (8/29)
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 10%: African cities quiz (9/12)
Students will have to name a selection of major cities and identify their countries.
- 10%: Attendance and participation in class
To get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but to actively engage in regular class discussion.
- 20%: In-class writing assignment (due 9/26)
Three essay questions on a theme discussed in classes and readings will be sent by e-mail ten days prior to the assignment's deadline. One of such questions will be part of the in-class writing assignment.
- 30%: Object-focused research assignment (11/5)
Students will select a work from any of the artists or movements discussed in the second half of the semester and will make individual research to be presented in an essay format written through Canvas. Please, confirm choice of work with instructor.
- 20%: Oral exam with instructor (12/2, 12/3, 12/9, or 12/10)
Students will schedule a meeting with instructor during office hours where they will be asked questions related to any content covered in the course (15-20 minutes).
- Extra credit multiple choice quizzes (throughout the semester)
Students will have the option to answer multiple choice questions on readings and class material for extra-credit.

Research track - Required for art history graduate students. Others please inquiry

- 10%: African map quiz (8/29)
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 10%: African cities quiz (9/12)
Students will have to name a selection of major cities and identify their countries.
- 10%: Attendance and participation in class
- To get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but to actively engage in regular class discussion.
- 20%: In-class writing assignment (due 9/26)
- Three essay questions on a theme discussed in classes and readings will be sent by e-mail ten days prior to the assignment's deadline. One of such questions will be part of the in-class writing assignment.
- 50%: Research paper (due 12/10)

Student will write a paper based on their own research of a topic agreed upon in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and follow the Chicago style citation guide.

- Extra credit multiple choice quizzes (throughout the semester)
Students will have the option to answer multiple choice questions on readings and class material for extra-credit.

Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Submission of Assignments: All assignments should be submitted/conducted through Canvas. Delays may incur in a grade penalty. Further details on all assignments and exams will be provided during the semester.

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>

| Letter Grade | % Equivalency | GPA Equivalency |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 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: Attendance to all classes is expected, including museum visits. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation or doctor's note.

No Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices, including computers, will not be allowed during class, unless required by DRC. Assigned readings should be printed and brought to the class for consultation. Class notes can be taken by hand.

Electronic Communication: Announcements about the class may be sent by e-mail, so please check it regularly. All electronic communication should be made through your official UF account. I will answer your e-mails as quickly as I can, but please allow forty-eight hours for responses.

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/>. Please notice that the use of AI technologies to complete any assignments for this course is strictly forbidden. If you have any questions or concerns on this, please feel free to speak to me.

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, <https://disability.ufl.edu>] 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:

8/22: Introduction

8/27: Modernity and Primitivism

8/29: Nigeria I

- **Assignment: African Map Quiz**

9/3: Nigeria II

9/5: Nigeria III

9/10: Congo-Brazzaville and Senegal I

9/12: Senegal II

- **Assignment: African cities quiz**

9/17: Senegal III

9/19: Mozambique I

9/24: Mozambique II

9/26: Mozambique III

- **Assignment: In-class writing assignment**

10/1: Mozambique IV

10/3: No class (Rosh Hashana)

10/8: Ethiopia

10/10: Chika Okeke-Agulu lecture at 7pm, location tba (in lieu of regular meeting time)

10/11: Friday, special class with Chika Okeke-Agulu (Attendance required)

10/15: Ethiopia II

10/17: Sudan

10/22: Sudan II

10/24: South Africa I

10/29: No class – Alternate activity tba

10/31: No class – Alternate activity tba

11/5: South Africa II

- **Object-focused research assignment due**

11/7: South Africa III

11/12: DRC

11/14: Mali

11/19: Welcome to the Global Contemporary

11/21: Vicki Rovine and Chris Richards discussion at the Harn Museum of Art, 7pm (in lieu of regular meeting time)

11/26: No class (Thanksgiving Break)

11/28: No class (Thanksgiving Break)

12/3: Oral Exams Begin

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. 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.

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. Phone: (352)392-4357 (select option 2). Website: <https://news.it.ufl.edu/education/tech-support-for-you-how-can-we-help/>.
- Library Support, for assistance in using the libraries and finding resources. Phone: (352)273-2805. Website: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/contact-us/>.
- Teaching Center, SW Broward Hall, for tutoring and strengthening study skills. Email: 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. Phone: (352)392-9826. Website: <http://harn.ufl.edu/>.